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magic...p. 19

Belchertown receives \$804K for site readiness

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff report

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown received \$804,000 in grant funding for the site readiness of the Carriage Grove Power Plant last week.

The Belchertown Economic Development and Industrial Corporation will use Site Readiness funds for the abatement and demolition of the disused power plant at Carriage Grove. When cleared, the one-acre site will become a development pad or a parking area to support the development of an adjacent 15-acre industrial district.

See **GRANT**, page 5 •

Belchertown recently received a grant for the site readiness of the Carriage Grove Power Plant at the previous Belchertown State School property.



PHOTO BY MELINA BOURDEAU

BELCHERTOWN

Selectboard greenlight municipal aggregation

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – Selectboard members discussed municipal aggregation and gave member Jim Barry support to draft an article to be included in this year's Annual Town Meeting warrant.

Members present at the meeting, were in support of a warrant article except for Selectboard member Nick O'Connor, who was not at the meeting.

Barry, who is also on the recently created Energy and Sustainability Committee, explained municipal aggregation, which residents approved at a previous town meeting years ago.

"One of the first things the

See **BOS**, page 8 •

PLANNING BOARD

Cutchins program to revisit PB in four weeks

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – The Planning Board's public hearing for the proposed Cutchins program at Old Bay Rd and Plaza Ave has been continued for four weeks at the request of the applicant.

Last week the Planning Board heard from the applicant, this time regarding the architecture of the proposed Three Rivers Program.

Tom Reidy, a lawyer with Bacon Wilson representing Cutchins, requested the public hearing be continued to allow Cutchins time to address comments.

"On Feb. 23 we got a lot of feedback about the site plan. Frankly we're still working through with DEP, corresponding with different town departments and looking through the site plan as the board can

appreciate," he said. "You make one change and it has a domino effect on some of the others."

The Cutchins program will come before the board on April 13.

The plan will also have a peer review, which will also be submitting comments, Reidy said.

The group has corresponded with DEP, the Belchertown Fire Department, the town attorney and others.

During the public hearing there was a presentation on the two buildings on the property, one will be a residential building and the other will be for multi-use including schooling, which is the existing house.

Bill Barrett, an architect hired by Cutchins, presented on the two buildings the program will be using.

"The existing house doesn't

See **CUTCHINS**, page 13 •

EDUCATION

Students to be in full time next month

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – After an order from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, schools around the state will be going back to school full time, with COVID-19 safety measures in place.

Superintendent Brian Cameron presented the changes to the School Committee in advance of the new phases for full time, in person learning.

Parents will have a choice to stay or go remote if they choose to, however, families are asked to commit to remote or in person learning from April until the end of the school year in June.

The commission pre-K through sixth graders will need to return by Monday, April 5, the middle school students will need to return by Wednesday, April 28. The high school date has yet to be determined.

There are new guidelines for transportation, stating that as



PHOTO BY MELINA BOURDEAU

Belchertown school committee heard about updates from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

long as students where a mask and the windows are down, there will not be a capacity limit and students can sit two students per set. Students will have assigned seating.

The situation would only change if Belchertown were to go into the red.

"If we went back to red, then

See **RETURN TO SCHOOL**, page 8 •



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BELCHERTOWN SCHOOL BUS ROUTES

2021-2022 Season

**BELCHERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL /
MIDDLE SCHOOL BUS ROUTES
COHORT MONDAY - TUESDAY**

ROUTE: 2 6:56 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: 648 FEDERAL ST 779 FEDERAL STREET 645 WARREN WRIGHT RD 121 N MAIN ST STOP #1 CLARK ST @ CALDWELL GEORGE HANNUM@DOGWOOD/HICKORY HILL 95 GEORGE HANNUM ST JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE: 3 7:00 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: STEBBINS ST @ MERCIER DR 26 EMILY LN 400 STEBBINS ST/401 STEBBINS ST 140 OLD BAY RD JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE:4 6:56 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: CEDARWOOD APTS @ 154 AMHERST RD 60 GULF RD GULF RD @ S GULF RD 114 NORTH ST JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE: 6 6:56 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: 404 STATE ST 689 GEORGE HANNUM ST JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE: 7 7:00 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: 469 MICHAEL SEARS RD KENNEDY RD @ MOSS LN MILL VALLEY RD @ MARTIN CIR 316 MILL VALLEY RD/329 MILL VALLEY RD JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE: 8 6:46 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 N LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: 173 RAILROAD ST 325 N WASHINGTON ST 259 N WASHINGTON ST 197/192 N. WASHINGTON ST JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE: 10 6:56 AM	N LIBERTY ST@FIRST STUDENT FIRST STOP: WARNER ST @ BLUE MANOR DR ALLEN @ BRANDYWINE ALLEN ST @ PONDVIEW CIR 56 N MAIN ST JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE:11 6:56 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: 56 GOLD ST 332 ALLEN ST JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE: 12 7:05 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: 110 LUDLOW ST 11 RIMROCK RD BARTON AVE @ CRESTVIEW DR JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE: 14 6:50 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: 200 SABIN ST 6 OLD SAWMILL RD 44 OLD SAWMILL RD "43 WARE RD/40 WARE RD," JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE: 15 6:56 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: 385 S WASHINGTON ST S WASHINGTON ST @ BARRETT ST 152 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST 92/98/97 S WASHINGTON ST 639 NORTH WASHINGTON ST 192 N WASHINGTON ST JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE: 16 7:00 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: OAK RIDGE DR @ CHESTNUT DR 185 SUMMIT ST 256 TURKEY HILL RD 27 LEDGEWOOD CIRCLE 305 OLD SPRINGFIELD RD JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	

**BELCHERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL /
MIDDLE SCHOOL BUS ROUTES
COHORT THURSDAY - FRIDAY**

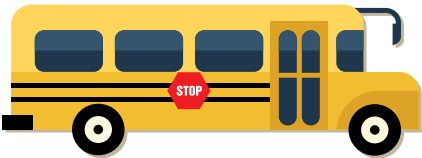
ROUTE: 2 6:56 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST 620 FEDERAL STREET/620 FEDERAL ST 11 TWO PONDS RD 450 AMHERST ST 231 AMHERST ST GREENWICH HL @ PRESCOTT CLARK ST @ ATHERTON LN MAIN ST @ TUCKER LN JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE: 3 6:55 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: 26 EMILY LN OLD BAY RD @ PLAZA AVE 646 BAY RD 366 BAY RD 275 HAMILTON ST JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE: 7 7:00 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: 506 MICHAEL SEARS RD 425 MICHAEL SEARS RD KENNEDY RD @ ROBIN LN 37/42 JENSEN ST JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE: 8 6:42 AM	FIRST STUDENT / 227 N LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: 240 NORTH LIBERTY ST/237 NORTH LIBERTY ST 578 N LIBERTY ST 111 RAILROAD ST 17 S LIBERTY ST/16 SOUTH LIBERTY ST JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE: 10 6:56	FIRST STUDENT / 227 N LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: BLUE MEADOW RD @ HERITAGE DR 212 OLD ENFIELD RD 145 SHEFFIELD DR JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE: 12 6:55 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY STREET FIRST STOP: 105 GREEN AVENUE 238 GREEN AVENUE 372 ROCKRIMMON ST/375 ROCKRIMMON ST 72 MOUNTAINVIEW DR 75 MOUNTAINVIEW DR MOUNTAINVIEW DR@OVERLOOK DR 72 BARTON AVE 27 LEDGEWOOD CIR JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE: 14 7:00 AM 7:30 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: 101 OLD SAWMILL RD JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
ROUTE: 15 6:56 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: 479 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST 166 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST 91/92 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST 480 N WASHINGTON ST JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	
ROUTE: 17 6:56 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: 316 MILL VALLEY RD/329 MILL VALLEY RD ST 510 FRANKLIN ST 44/45 RIVER ST 8/10/8A DEPOT ST "180 RIVER STREET/182 RIVER ST," JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST
7:30 AM	

**BELCHERTOWN ELEMENTARY
BUS ROUTES**

ROUTE: 1 8:00 AM	FIRST STUDENT / 227 N LIBERTY FIRST STOP: 61/#62 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST 31 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST 24 LEDGEWOOD DR 13 FOREST RD 28 LEDGEWOOD CIR 149 TURKEY HILL RD SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 2 8:00 AM	CHCS LOWER LOT FIRST STOP: 644 FEDERAL ST 68 CHERYL CIR 77 CHERYL CIR 97 HOWARD ST SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST COLD SPRING SCHOOL
8:30 AM	

ROUTE: 3 8:00 AM	CHCS LOWER LOT FIRST STOP: 380 STATE ST 121 STEBBINS ST 175 STEBBINS ST 23/28 EMILY LN 111/111B HAMILTON ST/111A HAMILTON ST COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 4 8:00 AM	CHCS PARKING LOT FIRST STOP: 33 NORTH ST GULF RD @ S GULF RD SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 5 8:00 AM	CHCS SCHOOL FIRST STOP: 5 BRANDYWINE DR SHEFFIELD DR @ SPRING HILL RD 118 SHEFFIELD DR 76 SHEFFIELD DR 20 SHEFFIELD DR 332 ALLEN ST COLD SPRING SCHOOL SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 6 8:00 AM	CHCS PARKING LOT FIRST STOP: JITTERBUGS STADLER ST 13 STADLER ST 61 ESKETT RD 34 RURAL RD CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 7 8:00 AM	BELCHERTOWN BUS GARAGE FIRST STOP: 514/515 MICHAEL SEARS RD 469 MICHAEL SEARS RD 425 MICHAEL SEARS RD 399 MICHAEL SEARS RD KENNEDY RD @ ROBIN LN KENNEDY RD @ RAINBOW DR 210/211 MICHAEL SEARS RD 7 MICHAEL SEARS RD 415 EAST ST 42 JENSEN ST COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST 38/36 MAPLE ST SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 8 8:00 AM	N LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: 394 NORTH LIBERTY ST 50 WEST ST 87 RAILROAD ST 124 RAILROAD ST 136 RAILROAD ST 578 N LIBERTY ST 35 CEDAR GLEN DR COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 9 8:00 AM	BAY RD FIRST STOP: BAY RD @ LAMSON AVE 635 BAY RD 24 EAGLE HEIGHTS RD SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 10 8:00 AM	5 JABISH ST FIRST STOP: WARNER ST @ BLUE MANOR DR 220 OLD ENFIELD RD ALLEN ST @ BRANDYWINE DR 136/134 ALLEN ST ALLEN ST @ PONDVIEW CIR 221 ALLEN ST 44 PARK ST SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 11 8:00 AM	CHCS/SRE DRIVE@CHCS SCHOOL@CHCS FIRST STOP: 230 DANIEL SHAYS HWY 73 MUNSELL ST 201 DANIEL SHAYS HIGHWAY 37 WESTVIEW DR 24 WESTVIEW DR SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST
8:30 AM	

ROUTE: 12 8:00 AM	CHCS LOWER LOT FIRST STOP: 185 SUMMIT ST 114 MOUNTAIN VIEW DR 251 BARTON AVE 92 BARTON AVE 72 BARTON AVE 44 BARTON AVE 75 SUMMIT ST KIDZ CLUB SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 13 8:00 AM	CHAUNCEY WALKER ST@LUDLOW ST FIRST STOP: 110 LUDLOW ST 25 GREEN AVE 256 TURKEY HILL RD CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 14 8:00 AM	JABISH ST FIRST STOP: 25 OLD SAWMILL RD 44 OLD SAWMILL RD 52 SABIN ST COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 15 8:00 AM	FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST FIRST STOP: 501 S WASHINGTON ST 421/421B SOUTH WASHINGTON ST S WASHINGTON ST @ BARRETT ST 170 S WASHINGTON ST 87/83 S WASHINGTON ST/84 S WASHINGTON 41 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST 25 S WASHINGTON ST 655 N WASHINGTON ST 639 NORTH WASHINGTON ST 192 N WASHINGTON ST COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST 55 S MAIN ST SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 16 8:00 AM	TURKEY HILL RD FIRST STOP: 135 ROCKRIMMON ST 3 MAPLECREST DR 21/22/24 MAPLECREST DR 2 CHESTNUT DR 11 HEMLOCK HOLW SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 17 8:00 AM	9 MILL VALLEY ROAD FIRST STOP: 322 MILL VALLEY RD 800 FRANKLIN ST 8/10/8A DEPOT ST 21 DEPOT ST 33 DEPOT STREET/#2 KEYES ST 19 SHEA AVE 716 FRANKLIN ST 675 FRANKLIN ST 2/3 NATHANIAL WAY COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 18 8:00 AM	N MAIN ST @ JACKSON ST FIRST STOP: 16 JACKSON ST 95 GEORGE HANNUM ST GEORGE HANNUM ST. @ DOGWOOD / HICKORY HL PRESCOTT HL@CLARK ST CLARK ST @ HOWE ST 96 CLARK ST 92 DANA HL/86 DANA HILL 31 DANA HILL CLARK ST @ DANA HILL #2 COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 19 8:00 AM	BACK DRIVE OF CHECKERS@UNNAMED FIRST STOP: 121 N MAIN ST/LORD JEFF (K-Z) STOP 1 121 N MAIN ST/LORD JEFF (A-J) STOP 2 COLD SPRING SCHOOL SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST
8:30 AM	
ROUTE: 20 8:00 AM	10/13/12 JABISH ST FIRST STOP: 35/34 MEADOW POND RD 99/150 ALDRICH ST 342 SPRINGFIELD RD SWIFT RIVER @ 55 STATE ST CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST COLD SPRING SCHOOL @ 57 S MAIN ST
8:30 AM	



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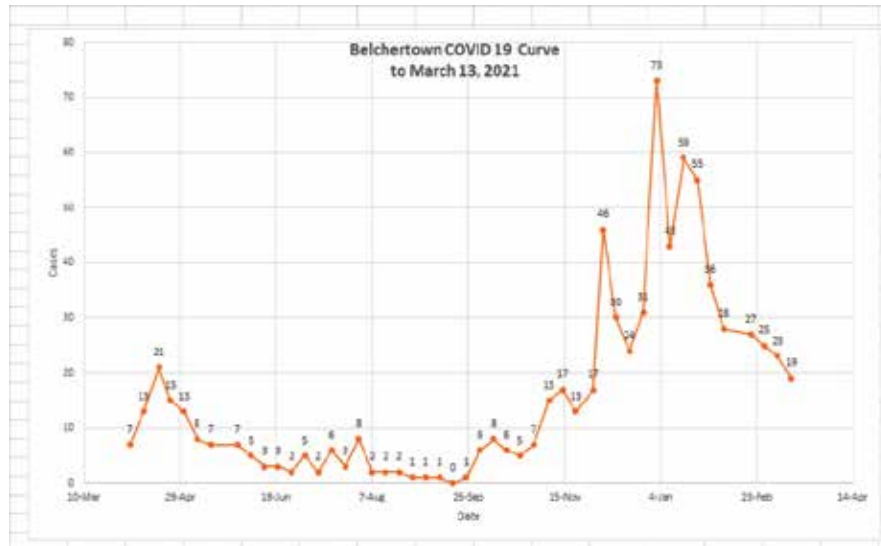
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COVID cases decline



MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – Although there was a decrease in cases, Belchertown remains in the state's yellow designation.

Both the case positivity rate and the rate per 100,000 were lower in the last two week period, from Feb. 21 to March 6, according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health metrics.

The case positivity rate is 2.11% and last week it was 2.25%. The rate per 100,000 is 17.8, and last week it was 19.6.

There have been a total of 752 cases of

COVID-19 in Belchertown according to the Quabbin Health District.

There were 19 new cases in the period of Sunday, March 7 to Saturday, March 13. There were no new deaths due to COVID-19 in this weekly period, keeping the total deaths at 16 since reporting started.

There have been 29,530 tests administered to the residents as of March 10. During this weekly period there were 1,157 tests.

Around this time last year, there were three confirmed cases as of Monday, March 30, and eight people quarantined, according to the Quabbin Health District.

Belchertown Community Garden accepting registrations for 2021 Season

BELCHERTOWN – Want to raise your own chemical-free vegetables? Need more garden space, fertile soil, or more sunshine? Joining the Belchertown Community Garden is the answer!

Individual, fully prepared, 300 square foot garden plots are available to all Belchertown and surrounding area residents at beautiful Lampson Brook Farm, located at 275 Jackson Street, Belchertown. Residents can obtain a plot for \$30 (non-residents \$35) for the season. Several plots will be made available to SNAP benefit recipients for only \$15 each. The garden fee includes compost, the use of shared tools in a well-organized tool shed, convenient access to water and parking. The companionship and wisdom of your gardening neighbors are free. The garden is a communi-

ty effort where each member also contributes a few hours of their time during the season to setting up, maintaining, and cleaning up the common areas. Join for yourself or purchase a Community Garden plot as a gift for your favorite gardener. A limited number of plots are available—so don't delay.

The garden partners with the New England Small Farm Institute (NESFI) which leases the rich farmland of the former Belchertown State School. All gardeners, beginner or experienced, are welcome. Depending on weather and soil conditions, the garden will be open May through October.

For questions or to receive a 2021 registration form, email BCGardenNews@gmail.com. All applications must be received by April 12.



COURTESY PHOTO

(From left to right) Michele Farry a grant administrator from Northampton Board of Health, Jill Panto from B.O.A.T., Sgt. Lozier and Chief Pronovost.

Sgt. receives commendation

STAFF REPORT

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown Police Sgt. Neil Lozier received a letter of commendation from the Northwestern District Attorney's Office earlier this month.

Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan wrote a letter of commendation to Lozier to recognize his work related to the opioid epidemic.

"Lozier has been active in the Hampshire HOPE opioid prevention coalition, helped develop resources and protocols for the DART officers responding to families who are bereaved and been an effective liaison to community-driven efforts such as the Belchertown Opioid Addiction Task Force and the Nest," Sullivan wrote.

Sullivan said Lozier was a "champion" of the DART initiatives which include Narcan distribution and other harm reducing efforts which "save lives and help people along the path to recovery," Sullivan wrote.

He credited Lozier as well as the Belchertown Police Department for the efforts.

"Together, we can turn the tide of the opioid epidemic when we fight stigma and enact proactive, compassionate and data-driven responses to the needs of the community," Sullivan wrote.

Belchertown Police Chief Chris Pronovost said the department is "very proud of Sergeant Lozier for receiving this commendation."

"And for all of the great work he has done with so many people and their families," he said. "Sergeant Lozier has been instrumental in assisting other surrounding law enforcement agencies start their DART programs. He possesses everything that an excellent police officer needs, compassion, empathy and leadership."

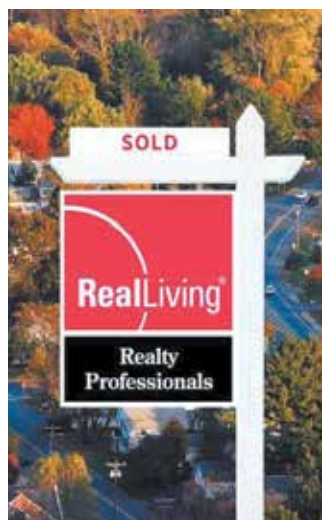


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St. Patrick's Day
& Saturday, March 20th

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Spring Begins

Saturday, March 20th

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Ovals ~ Six Packs



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Easter Sunday, April 4th

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COMMUNITY

Belchertown Selectboard announces board/committee vacancies

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Selectboard is looking for citizens interested in sharing their expertise by serving on a Town Board/Committee. If you have time and are interested in getting involved in your town's activities, please submit a letter of interest to: Selectboard, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007 or by email to selectmen@belchertown.org (unless otherwise indicated below). The town wishes to fill the following vacancies:

Cultural Council: The town wishes to fill a vacancy on the Cultural Council. The Council promotes an appreciation of the arts and culture by participating in the development and administration of funds for local cultural activities. Deadline has been extended to 12 p.m. on Friday, April 16.

Historic District By-Law Commission: The town wishes to fill an associate member seat (non-voting) and an at-large (full member) seat on the Historic District By-Law

Commission. The Commission has regulatory control over new construction, reconstruction, alterations, movements and demolition of all exterior architectural features of buildings and structures within the Historic District which are visible from any public street, public way or public park. The deadline has been extended to 12 p.m. on Friday, April 16.

Scholarship Committee: The Town wishes to fill an at-large seat on the Scholarship Committee. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please submit a letter of interest. The deadline has been extended to 12 p.m. on Friday, April 16.

Zoning Board of Appeals – Associate Member: The ZBA is responsible for hearing and deciding on applications for special permits, variances and appeals from decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector. The deadline headline has been extended to 12 p.m. on April 16.

Belchertown Community Television schedule

BELCHERTOWN – This is the upcoming schedule for Thursday, Feb. 17 to Wednesday, March 23. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this schedule is subject to change.

Thursday, March 17

- 8 a.m. – Selectboard - March 15
- 10 a.m. – Finance Committee/Select Board - March 17
- 11:30 a.m. – Belchertown Voices for Justice - How to Run for Office
- 12:30 p.m. – BEDIC - March 17
- 6 p.m. – COVID Task Force - Channel 191
- 7:30 p.m. – Selectboard - March 15
- 9:30 p.m. – Finance Committee/Select Board - 17 March 17
- 11:30 p.m. – Belchertown Voices for Justice - How to Run for Office

Friday, March 18

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – COVID Task Force - March 17
- 10:30 a.m. – Politics and Pizza - Jacob Oliveria
- 11:30 a.m. – Belchertown Voices for Justice - How to Run for Office
- 7 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 8 p.m. – BEDIC - March 17
- 10 p.m. – COVID Task Force - 17 March

Saturday, March 19

- 8 a.m. – Curious Giraffe
- 9 a.m. – Politics and Pizza - Jacob Oliveria
- 7 p.m. – Belchertown Voices for Justice - How to Run for Office

Sunday, March 20

- 4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
- 6 p.m. – Christ Community Church
- 7 p.m. – Hope United Methodist Church

- 8:30 p.m. – Politics and Pizza – Jacob Oliveria

Monday, March 21

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 6:30 p.m. – Selectboard - Channel 191
- 7 p.m. – Conservation Comm. - Channel 192

Tuesday, March 22

- 8 a.m. – Curious Giraffe
- 9 a.m. – Politics and Pizza - Jacob Oliveria
- 5 p.m. – Belchertown Voices for Justice - How to Run for Office
- 7 p.m. – Planning Board - Channel 191

Wednesday, March 23

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 8 p.m. – Belchertown Voices for Justice - How to Run for Office
- 9 p.m. – Politics and Pizza - Jacob Oliveria

The BCTV Studio is located at 68 State St., Belchertown. BCTV channels are 191, 192 and 193. The BCTV schedule is available at www.belchertown.org. On the main title page select "residents," click on Belchertown Community Television. Selected BCTV shows are also available on Vimeo. Go to www.belchertown.org, go to quick links and click on "watch meetings and events online." The schedule is subject to change.

The BCTV weather information system is broadcast on TV channel 193 and displays the current weather conditions at the BCTV station as well as, the current regional radar. This service operates 24 hours a day with audio provided by the National Weather Service from Albany New York, with forecasts, storm and emergency warnings for the Pioneer Valley.

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COMMUNITY

Belchertown nomination papers available

BELCHERTOWN –Nomination papers for the May, 17 Town Election are available now at the Town Clerk’s office. The Town Hall remains closed to the public due to COVID-19.

For those interested in running this year, please call 413-323-0281 and staff at the Town Clerk’s office can email or

mail a Candidate Statement form. The statement must be completed and either mailed, emailed or left in the drop box at Town Hall. Your nomination papers will be mailed to you.

The last day to take out nomination papers is Friday, March 26. The last day to submit nomination papers is Monday,

March 29. People in hopes of getting on the ballot will need to obtain 50 Belchertown registered voter signatures – but candidates are encouraged to get more than 50. The offices up for election/re-election are Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Housing Authority, Planning Board, School Committee, Selectman and Town Clerk.

Sen. Lesser to host virtual town hall via zoom

STAFF REPORT

REGION – On Thursday, March 18, Senator Eric P. Lesser (First Hampden and Hampshire) will host a Virtual Town Hall forum. This forum will be an opportunity for members of the community to receive a legislative update and bring questions and concerns to Senator Lesser on various topics, such as vaccine distribution in the region. Interested participants can register for the Town Hall which will be held via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on March 18.

Register to participate: https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/WN_90g6_w-lSvOfF8VWuMP8w

For those who would like to watch the live footage of the Town Hall online rather than registering, visit twitter.com/eric-lesser or facebook.com/EricLesserMA. For questions, please contact Molly Trowbridge, Communications Director to Senator Eric P. Lesser.

Massachusetts banks partner to hold virtual event

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, proudly announced it has partnered with eight local banks to transform the Credit for Life program from an on-site event to a virtual event. Credit for Life, a popular financial literacy program, has been offered for more than a decade within many Massachusetts public schools.

With most, if not all, schools adopting a virtual learning model for students, Credit for Life organizers connected last summer to explore a virtual experience in 2021. As part of the virtual transformation, organizers enlisted FitMoney.org, a nonprofit financial literacy organization, to serve as the key fiscal agent, and Stackpole & Partners, of Newburyport, for the design and implementation of an interactive website. Contributing partners

are Country Bank, Institution for Savings, Cape Cod 5, Bay Coast Bank, HarborOne Bank, The Savings Bank, Rockland Trust and Westfield Bank.

During the half day online Credit for Life Fair, students will assume the role of a 25-year-old adult and be asked to make financial decisions on how to spend their money.

“The Credit for Life Fair is one of the most important and impactful events we offer every year,” said Jodie Gerulaitis, vice president of community relations at Country Bank. “We are honored to be able to partner with other local banks to make the fair a reality again for students. The interactive website is a tool that educators and others can use in the current learning environment. Teachers are being asked to do so much right now, this is just one small way we can offer our support.”

Development of the website is in the final stages; the group is hopeful that the site will be ready for use by high schools towards the end of March. In addition, the partnership group is also in the process of establishing a 501c3 that will allow for the ability to raise funds and plan for future school financial literacy initiatives similar to creditforlife.org.

For more information, please contact Gerulaitis at 800-322-8233 or jgerulaitis@countrybank.com

Country Bank is a full-service mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton and Worcester. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network.

GRANT • from page 1

In its meeting on Monday, the Belchertown Selectboard and Town Administrator Gary Brougham spoke about the grant and the next steps.

“Belchertown received the second-largest grant amount,” said Brougham. “(MassDevelopment and the BEDIC) are fully aware that \$804,000 is not enough. There is concern there may be some remedial action required under the floor of the powerhouse once that slab is lifted. There are still a couple of brownfield grants and money that was allowed in the administration and finance budget to tackle that.”

The estimated cost will be around \$1.2 to \$1.3 million.

“The powerhouse is the last of the big buildings,” Brougham said. “That was a huge win for MassDevelopment and

EDIC.”

Brougham said the next steps would be contingent on a brownfield grant or another budget, which “could happen this calendar year.” There are no immediate plans for development at that location, but it would be “clearing the way.”

Baker-Polito Administration announced \$3,184,000 in funding for 10 projects in the fifth annual round of Site Readiness Program awards. These awards provide vital resources to help municipalities, private sector businesses, and nonprofit economic development entities overcome obstacles to developing otherwise prime sites for large-scale industrial and commercial use.

The funding will finance predevelopment work including feasibility studies, master planning, environmental work, strategic land acquisition, and site improvements, increasing the develop-

ment potential of nearly 900 acres across the Commonwealth. Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, and Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy joined MassDevelopment President and CEO Dan Rivera and state and local officials to announce the funding today in a virtual event.

“Our administration is committed to helping communities achieve their economic development goals, and we will continue to work with the public and private sectors to ensure Massachusetts remains a great place to do business,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “The Site Readiness Program addresses both goals by helping local partners advance key sites to shovel-ready status, and we look forward to these awards supporting projects that create jobs and revenue in their communities.”

Holy Week and Easter services

STAFF REPORT

BELCHERTOWN – Christ Community Church, at 1255 Federal St., Belchertown, will have Holy Week celebrations for both Good Friday and Easter Sunday. There will be in person services at 7 p.m. on Good Friday and 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Easter Sunday. The 7 p.m. Good Friday service and 9 a.m. Easter morning service will also be available via livestream.

Please visit the CCC website www.gracefortheway.org to sign up for one of the services or to find livestream information.

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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Does paying FICA tax now increase my benefit?

RUSSELL GLOOR
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: If a person retires at age 66 and continues to work full time, Social Security taxes are still taken out of his weekly paycheck. Will this taxation for Social Security contribute more to the person's Social Security benefit, even if already retired? *Signed: Curious Retiree*

Dear Curious Retiree: Since its inception in 1935, Social Security has been a “pay as you go” program, where contributions from those who are working are used to pay benefits to those who are collecting Social Security benefits. That remains true even if, after you start collecting Social Security, you work and pay payroll taxes into the system.

Those Social Security payroll taxes you are contributing now aren't deposited into a personal account for you, they're used to help pay benefits to all recipients. So, paying Social Security FICA payroll taxes after you start collecting benefits doesn't affect your benefit payment. However, what might affect your benefit amount is if your current earnings from working are more than any of those in the 35 years used to originally compute your Social Security benefit when you filed.

When you apply for Social Security benefits, Social Security adjusts every year in your lifetime earnings record for inflation to bring those earlier earnings up to today's dollar values. They then select the 35 highest-earning years over your entire lifetime, and from those 35 highest-earning years they develop your “Average Indexed Monthly Earnings” or AIME. Your AIME, in turn, is used to compute your Social Security benefit at your full retirement age, or FRA.

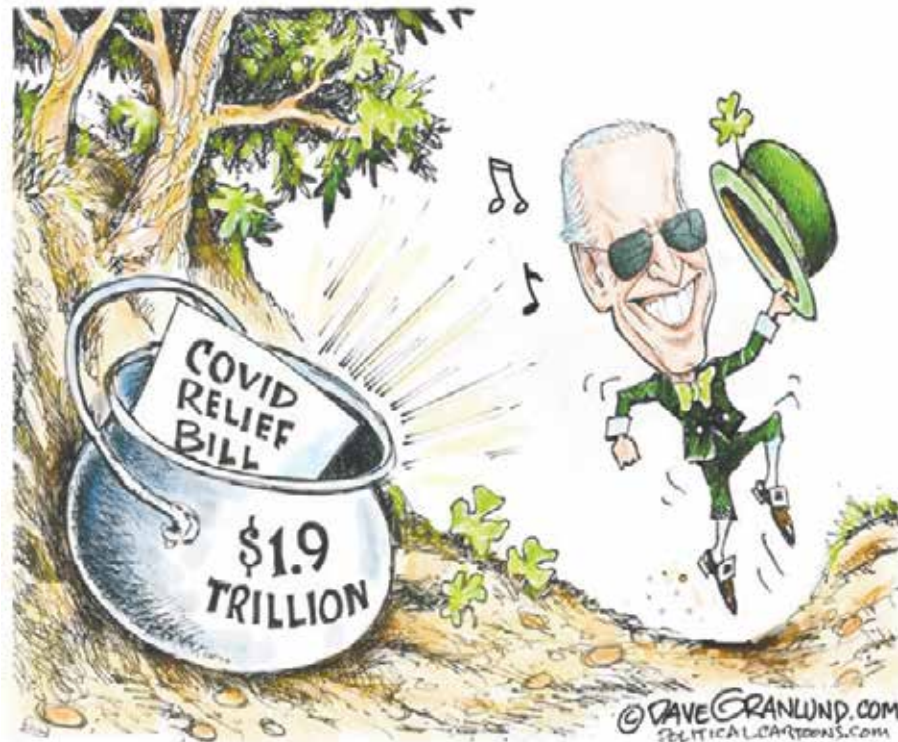
Social Security examines your earnings every year after your earnings for the previous year are reported to Social Security by the IRS. After your benefits have started, and if your current earnings are higher, Social Security will replace an earlier year's earnings with your more recent earnings and recompute your benefit, resulting in a small benefit increase. I use the term “small” because it would represent only 1/35th of the average lifetime earnings used to compute your benefit.

A key thing to remember is that each of your past year's earnings, up until you are 60, are adjusted for inflation before computing your benefit amount. So, for example, \$25,000 earned in 1990 is worth more than \$60,000 in today's dollars, and it is the inflation-adjusted amount that your current earnings would need to exceed increase in your benefit. I recently published an article on this topic which you may find helpful: www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-does-paying-social-security-payroll-tax-increase-my-benefit/.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity.

To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



GUEST COLUMN

The Garden Lady tackles heirloom tomatoes

Bill, a Maryland “transplant” who continues to read the Ware River News from his new home, had this question for the Garden Lady: “My son and family think I'm Mr. Green-jeans. For Christmas they gave me a pack of “exotic” tomato seeds. Unfortunately, there are some limitations to a 15-foot by 25-foot garden plot. I would like to start some nonetheless. Here is the list: Vintage Wine, Red Zebra, Chocolate Stripes and Black from Tula. All are from a seed company by the name of Urban Gardener in Indiana. Should I bother with these?”

Wow! You posed a wonderful question, Bill, and I am sure that the title of Mr. Green-jeans must have been earned somewhere down the line to warrant such a unique gift. I assumed that with names as poetic as these, you had been given a collection of heirloom tomato seeds. I was fascinated to learn, however, that while all of these varieties are open pollinated, not all are heirloom. What is the difference?

When I consider what the definition of an heirloom is, images of grandma's china or brooch come to mind, or in my personal case, babci's water pitcher. To accurately put it into words, an heirloom is something that has been carefully passed down through the generations of a family. The same holds for heirloom plants. They aren't here by chance, typically. Someone took the time to care for them and save the seeds of their best fruits or flowers so that they could be preserved and shared with others. To be able to save your own seed true to type, the plants need to be open pollinated, which heirlooms are. Here, pollination occurs naturally by bees, insects, animals, careful humans or the wind and the rain. Hybrids are a whole different story, whereby two plants were cross pollinated hoping to pass on specific genetic traits. The result, the third plant, is not stable. If its seeds are saved it is likely you will end up with a fruit or flower that resembles one of the parent plants.

Saving the seeds of open pollinated tomatoes is the perfect first attempt for novice seed savers. They are self-pollinating and will produce offspring true to the parent plant without having to isolate them from other tomato varieties. Other plants can be tricky, say corn, for example, which needs to be kept separate from other corn by miles to produce seed that



is true to type. My first experience with heirloom tomatoes was in my early years at Old Sturbridge Village, where we grew tiny Yellow Pear, for awhile the pinkish Brandywine, and now the uniquely lobed Large Red. I remember my co-worker analyzing which Large Red tomato matched the descriptions from the mid-19th century and choosing to save the seeds of the most authentic looking fruit, thereby passing on accurate genetic traits to future crops. Neat stuff!

It was fun to read that the scarlet color of most modern day tomatoes was actually a gene mutation that breeders discovered and bred into fruits so that they would ripen evenly. Many champions of the heirloom tomato movement argue that this was at the expense of flavor. So Bill, you have a unique opportunity to experience Vintage Wine, a whopper of a tomato, with some of the pink, striped golden fruits weighing over a pound.

Also the oh so sweet Russian heirloom Black from Tula, another large fruit that is deep purple with green shoulders sometimes described as “the ugliest, most delicious tomato ever grown.” The more recent chance discovery, Red Zebra, is a beautiful cherry-red with yellow-orange stripes and a sweet, yet tart tomato flavor. How about Chocolate Stripe, a three to four-inch, exceptionally yummy mahogany colored tomato with olive striping that produces over a long period, taking third place winner for taste at the annual TomatoFest.

So yes, bother with these, enjoy complexities of flavor not found in the average red tomato and save the seed for those you like. I'd love to hear all about it!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Sentinel Editor Melina Bourdeau, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or via email to sentinel@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at 5 p.m.

ON THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Belchertown Police Log

Editor’s note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of March 3 through March 9. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Of the 299 calls police responded to, there were 11 incidents, one accident, three arrest/summons and 14 citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Thursday, March 4

12:53 a.m. – An officer spoke with a resident who reported threats and extortion through the internet. The reporting party said they sent money to a party who did not respond back. There was no record of the party in question and the reporting party was likely scammed.
9:10 a.m. – Officers spoke with a resident about a case of identity fraud. The person attempted to file their taxes and was told someone already filed taxes under their name. A report of the incident was made.

Friday, March 5

12:26 p.m. – Officers took a report of unemployment fraud.
3:55 p.m. – Officers responded to an accident at George Hannum Rd and Dana Hill. An operator was travelling east on George Hannum Rd when they became drowsy and fell asleep at the wheel. The vehicle went into the westbound lane and stuck a pole. There was some property damage. The vehicle was towed, but no injuries were reported.

Saturday, March 6

5:50 p.m. – Officers responded to a business on North Main St after a person walked in and reported they were pepper sprayed. While there, officers received a report that the party exited the business and was in the parking lot. The person refused treatment and said they were pepper sprayed. The person did not explain how or where the incident occurred. Later, the person returned to the business. Officers arrived and the party asked for a ride. They were not allowed to stay at the business due to COVID-19 restrictions. The party said they were accused of stealing and someone jumped out in front of them and pepper sprayed them. There are no suspects at this time.

Sunday, March 7

8:49 a.m. – Officers responded to the area of Jabish St for a report of a past incident of breaking and entering. The reporting party met officers outside and reported they got home and were able to open their door without unlocking it. There was damage reported, but things inside were moved around. There was a spot on the floor that was wet. Items were reported missing. There is no further information at this time.

Monday, March 8

9:14 a.m. – Officers responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics.
9:57 a.m. – Officers dispatched to North Main St for a report of a past breaking and entering incident. Officers met the employee at the business where it was reported items were missing as well as on the floor. The business appeared to be ransacked. There were no pry marks on the door, nor was any glass broken. The area was canvassed and a list of missing items was given to officers. The matter is under investigation.

Tuesday, March 9

10:37 a.m. – Officers took a report of a scam. The person said they got a call from someone claiming to be from the

DEA, who reported their bank accounts were frozen. The reporting party was told someone with their social security number rented a car in Texas and it was found with blood in the vehicle. The person was asked if they would cooperate with the investigation and they were transferred to someone who would help unfreeze their bank accounts. The person was then told to gift cards to be able to put their money into a secure account provided by the scammer. The person did so. There is no further information at this time.

Granby Police Log

Editor’s Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 173 calls for the week of March 5 through March 11. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. All information is provided by the Granby Police Department.

Sunday, March 7

6:07 p.m. – A criminal citation was issued for operation with a suspended divers license after a motor vehicle stop on Amherst St.

Tuesday, March 9

11:38 p.m. – Melissa Mcleod, 52, of 51 Know St, Springfield, was arrested on a warrant.

Wednesday, March 10

12:15 a.m. – Donald Lovern, 65, of 7 Darrel Ave, Granby, was arrested on a warrant.

Thursday, March 11

4:47 p.m. – Officers investigated a two car accident on Pleasant and West State St. No injuries were reported.
10:29 p.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident on School St. The operator drove off roadway and struck a utility pole. The operator was charged with operation under the influence of alcohol.

Fire officials ask for public’s help in preventing brush fires

Conduct open burning carefully and watch the wind

STOW – State officials are asking for the public’s help in making sure brush fires do not get out of control this year. “Early spring is often when firefighters in New England are busy fighting brush fires. As the season changes, the winds can be strong and unpredictable,” State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey said. “Please conduct open burning safely and watch the wind. Have a permit and to be ready to shut it down quickly if the weather changes.”
Drought Last Summer Led to Many Brush Fires
Early spring is usually a busy time for brush fires as people rush to conduct open burning before the season ends on May 1. It is also a windy time of the year as the weather pattern changes. The snow pack has melted, but the ground is only just starting to green up and there is plenty of dry vegetation and leaves from last year to serve as tinder. Low humidity combined with dry, hot and windy conditions make it perfect for brush fires to start and to get out of control, and hard for firefighters to contain. Last April was wet, but May started a 5-month period of unusually dry weather with below average rainfall. As a result, many brush and wildland fires kept firefighters busy across the state.

Taxing firefighting resources

Brush fires are labor intensive and take a long time to bring under control. Multiple brush fires can severely tax a community’s firefighting resources. Prevention is the best approach.

· On March 9, 2020, at 12:47 p.m., the Bondsville Fire Department responded to a brush fire that started as an illegal burn. The homeowner did not pull a permit before starting to burn yard waste. The fire got out of control and burned 24 acres. Approximately 20 pieces of apparatus and 40 to 50 personnel responded to this fire. Two firefighters were injured at this fire.
· On March 9, 2020, at 1:22 p.m., the Sutton Fire Department was called to a brush fire in the woods. The fire burned for seven hours and consumed 35 acres.
· On June 21, 2020, at 7:30 a.m., the Southwick Fire Department responded to a 16-acre brush fire that lasted 11 hours. A day later on June 22, at 6:30 a.m. they also responded to a 22-acre fire that lasted four hours.
· On June 25, 2020, at 11:44 a.m., the Leverett Fire Department responded to a brush fire in and around Brushy Mountain. The fire burned for 34 days until it was finally extinguished, consuming 66 acres. Mutual aid was critical during the initial days of the fire.

2020 Ranks in the Top 10

In 2020, Massachusetts fire departments reported 5,846 natural vegetation fires, which caused two civilian injuries, 19 firefighter injuries, and an estimated dollar loss of \$217,409; this is a 96% increase from the 2,978 incidents reported in 2019 (which was an unusually low number of brush fires). These types of fires are so weather-dependent and 2020 ranks in the top 10 years for brush fires. The Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System collects data on grass fires, brush fires, wildland fires, woods fires and other outside natural vegetation fires, which we refer to generally as “brush fires.”

Don’t delay, call for help

If the fire should get out of control, call the fire department immediately. “Winds can fan the flames and fire can spread faster than a person can run,” said Ostroskey. “Use the utmost caution to prevent injury and damage to your own and your neighbor’s property.”

Conduct open burning safely

Open burning that has gotten out of control is the cause of many brush fires. Open burning season, in communities where allowed, ends on May 1. A permit is required from the local fire warden, usually the local fire chief. Burning can only take place when both air quality and fire conditions are acceptable. “Weather conditions change rapidly,

See FIRE, page 13 •

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Seasonal Laborer(s)

Temporary Seasonal Laborer positions are available at the Belchertown Department of Public Works. Positions are approximately 32-40 hours per week (as scheduled by the Director of Public Works) and available immediately through October, 2021. Duties include using commercial grounds maintenance equipment (i.e. mowers, leaf blowers and vacs, string trimmers, brush and chainsaws, and basic hand tools). Must be able to engage in heavy physical labor on a regular and continuous basis, and capable of driving a pickup truck/landscape trailer combination. Positions are temporary and non-benefited.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, possess a valid Massachusetts Driver’s License and have a clear driving record. Employment applications are available in the Selectmen’s Office at The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, Belchertown, MA 01007, and will be accepted until the positions are filled.

Support 2021 BHS seniors

STAFF REPORT

BELCHERTOWN – Do you know a Belchertown High School graduating senior? Are you a 2021 graduating senior? Excited to graduate? Let’s celebrate this milestone and share with the community the success of our seniors. Anyone can purchase.

Double-sides lawn signs 12’ x 24’ for \$12 and 3’x 5’ banners for \$32 which have grommets for securing via rope will be available for purchase to celebrate all

graduating BHS seniors. Both can be purchased for a combo price of \$40 with a savings of \$4.

The store will remain open until all seniors have been gifted a sign. Once the lawn sign and banners are in, there will be several dates/times for pick up.

All proceeds of this event will benefit the Class of 2021.

The link is https://btownclassof2021.itemorder.com/sale?fbclid=IwAR3D4ZM-wF53AyXWB31wiW5wPF9uMfRI-V2arLZO6RG3_cwVBiaPKdSv4-eQ.

BOS • from page 1

Energy and Sustainability Committee was to do of the seven to eight things we wanted to do as a committee, was narrow down what were the one to three things we were trying to do in year one,” Barry said. “Some of these were education and outreach, electrical vehicle charging stations, and someone brought up the issue of competitive supply in terms of the electrical service.”

He explained there are two electrical bills people pay – one is for the distribution of electricity and the other is the electricity generated by solar panels, nuclear power or gas.

“We’re allowed to choose a different competitive supplier if we want. We talked about helping people decide what that means, how that works and the option people have for having green electricity,” he said. “In that process, we stumbled upon municipal aggregation, which is when a group gets together to get a competitive bid, to receive cheap electricity for the whole town.”

Belchertown previously attempted to do this about a decade ago through the Hampshire Council of Governments, but it did not come to be. An article was approved by voters at a town meeting in support of municipal aggregation.

Town Administrator Gary Brougham said he recalls people were largely in support of municipal aggregation the last time the matter was in front of the voters.

“There are two things I remember were from that. People were not comfortable with the need to opt out of the program. Some thought that was difficult to navigate the process of opting out,” Brougham said. “Folks should be able to

opt in or it would need to be very clear about the opt out process. They were not comfortable with the town choosing their electrical supplier. The whole process can be intimidating.”

People would essentially be automatically enrolled in the program unless they decide to opt out due to a state law, Barry said.

He added that the Energy and Sustainability Committee believe municipal aggregation might benefit the town twofold, in being able to get cheaper, greener electricity.

He explained there was a sense of urgency to get the draft article before the Selectboard.

“It would take about a year. We have to have a plan and get it approved by the state. If we are serious about doing it now, we need get this in front of town meeting and get its approval to investigate (municipal aggregation) and see if you can find cheaper/greener,” Barry said. “We would then come back in six, 12 or 18 months with a proposal. If people do not like it, they’re allowed to opt out. You don’t have to participate.”

He said pending the approval of a town meeting article, the Energy and Sustainability Committee could be assigned with the task of finding a consultant to aid in the process. The group would then create a plan that would need to be approved by the state.

“Within that plan there is a subsection about how to communicate with the townsfolk to inform them of the program, make sure they’re aware of the options are and know if they have a provider happy with they can stay,” Barry said, “If they do nothing they’ll end up on the new plan with us.”

Scholarship applications now available

BELCHERTOWN – The Town of Belchertown Scholarship Committee will be awarding year 2020-2021 scholarships to Belchertown residents with acceptances to recognized institutions for post-secondary education. For those interested in applying, please go to <http://www.belchertownps.org/belchertown-high-school/belchertown-scholarship-information> to access the online scholarship application, and instructions.

Due to COVID-19, please submit your

paper application packages via drop-off box located at the Belchertown Central School Office, 14 Maple Street, Belchertown, MA.

Applications will be accepted Monday thru Thursday only, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All applications and required criteria must be submitted no later than March 26.

The Scholarship Committee wishes to thank everyone for their generous donations and continued support, for students.

RETURN TO SCHOOL • from page 1

we would have to go back to six feet social distancing,” Cameron said. “I want to stress that if possible, there are only a certain number of students in the classroom, we can certainly move the desks farther apart. We will not go below three feet.”

While students will be going from six feet to three feet of social distancing while wearing a mask, they will maintain six feet of distance for periods when they won’t be wearing a mask, such as lunch.

“As part of the reopening in the fall we spent money on HEPA ultraviolet light air purifiers that fight against the virus,” Cameron said. “Each classroom will have that. We’re getting rid of remote Wednesdays, so all classrooms and high touch surfaces will be disinfected each night.” One of the biggest challenges at Cold Springs, Swift River and Chestnut Hill are lunches, Cameron said.

“To of this, we need to purchase individual desks that we can set up in the cafeteria, gym and in all purpose rooms. In addition to desks used during lunches, we also need to purchase some classroom desks,” he said.

The cost of this including the air purifiers, storage containers, desks is about \$53,000.

Cold Spring School

At Cold Spring all classes have a capacity of 20 students at three feet apart.

The school would need about 254 desks, they’re about \$124 per desk.

“We do have some chairs in storage we’re going to be able to use,” Cameron said. “We need two storage units where teachers can store materials that aren’t being used.”

Additional modifications will be done for the specialist schedules as well as lunch, recess, arrival and dismissal schedules will be staggered. This is all dependent

on how many students will be returning to in person learning.

“In addition to make this happen all educators have to return to the building, including the remote teachers as well. We need to do simultaneous learning for in person and remote students,” Cameron said. “The reason we want to do that is because we didn’t want to disrupt students’ classroom teachers or schedules.”

He said some schedules might change their start times.

Swift River Elementary School

The classrooms on the outer circle of the building, of which there are 24, can accommodate 23 desks at three feet. The inner circle classrooms can accommodate 10 desks.

In addition to reiterating previously stated points about cleaning, lunches in common spaces and others, Cameron highlighted the expenses of desks and storage again.

“Once again the big purchase here is classroom desks and chairs. Swift River needed about three storage units and a couple more air purifiers to make sure very classrooms has them,” he said.

Chestnut Hill

All classrooms can accommodate 23 students at three feet distance. The three feet distance by DESE guidance is seat edge to seat edge front to back, side to side.

“We’re going to have add another lunch at Chestnut Hill,” Cameron said. “We’re going to need storage units.”

He said they wouldn’t need as many desks at Chestnut Hill as the other schools.

Jabish Brook and Belchertown High School

Students in Jabish Brook and BHS will continue going to school the hybrid learning model, as of the March 9 meeting.

Cameron said those students will be back in school full time no later than April 28 as well.



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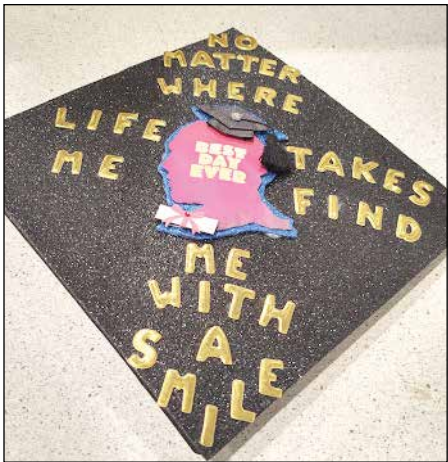
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EDUCATION

Belchertown seniors featured in Q and A



Meredith Medina plans to study exercise science.



Meredith Medina

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown High School Principal Christine Vigneux has begun featuring a member of the Class of 2021 in a question and answer survey about their tenure in the school. Each of the seniors featured decorated a cap sharing their future plans and they have also answered questions about their experiences at “the Nest,” the school community of Belchertown Public Schools. These seniors will be featured in the Sentinel as well.

Meredith Medina

What are your future plans?
My future plans are to study exercise science and get my doctorate in physical therapy. And to hopefully become a Pediatric Physical Therapist.

What is your favorite memory from the nest?
My favorite memory from the nest or I'd say memories were the spirit assemblies,

although we don't get to have any this year, you could always count on them to bring some kind of excitement to BHS. It's also a chance to really come together as a class and have fun.

What advice do you have for our younger Orioles?
My advice for younger Orioles is to definitely get involved, whether it's sports, clubs or band. Because it's a great opportunity to meet new people and it will definitely make your high school experience more enjoyable.

What is your proudest moment as an Oriole?
My proudest moment as an Oriole is definitely keeping my grades up, figuring out the college process and working hard during the difficult times that we're experiencing. I think everyone in the school should be proud of that, both students and teachers.

College NOTES

Local resident named to Simmons University Dean's List
BOSTON - The following local residents were named to the 2020 fall semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.
• Tessa Sweeney, Granby
To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

University of Connecticut announces Dean's List
STORRS, CT – The following local resident was named to the 2020 fall semester dean's list at UConn.
Sam Dixon, of Belchertown
At the end of each semester the Dean of each school and college names to the Dean's List those students who were registered for at least 12 credits calculable for grade points, received no grade below “C”, including the actual letter grade awarded in any course under the Pass/Fail option, earned at least 3.0 times as many grade points as the number of calculable credits recorded by the Registrar, and were in at least the upper quartile of their school or college.

Caleb Ireland named to dean's list at Bates College
LEWISTON, ME – Caleb Ireland of Amherst, was named to the dean's list at Bates College for the fall semester ending in December 2020. This is a distinction earned by students whose grade point average is 3.88 or higher.
Ireland, the son of Michael K. Ireland and Ruth Loescher Ireland, is a 2019 graduate of Amherst Regional High School. He is majoring in environmental studies and minoring in German and history at Bates.

Fall 2020 Engineering and Computer Science Dean's List
SYRACUSE, NY – In recognition of superior scholarship, the following students have been entered on the Engineering and Computer Science Dean's List for Fall 2020.
• Liam Calnan of Belchertown - College of Engineering and Computer Science
To be eligible for Dean's List recognition, the minimum semester grade point average must be 3.40 or higher, must have earned a minimum of 12 graded credits and must have no missing or incomplete grades.

Local residents named to Dean's List at Dickinson College
CARLISLE, PA - Dickinson College has announced the following students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2020 semester. All students earning a position on the dean's list-a recognition of academic excellence-must have a grade-point average of 3.7 or above on a 4.0 GPA scale for the semester.
Max Shannon, a first year student. Shannon is a graduate of Home School and is the son of John Shannon of Amherst.
Sarah Tepfer, a first year student. Tepfer is a graduate of Amherst Regional High School and is the daughter of David Tepfer and Marci Lowy of Amherst.

Le Moyne College names Haley Synan to the Fall 2020 Dean's List
SYRACUSE, NY – Haley Synan, a Senior Environmental Science Systems major from Belchertown, has been named to the Le Moyne College Fall 2020 Dean's List. To make the list, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or above.

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GRANBY

Resident featured in 'A Little Good News'

GRANBY – Earlier this month, Senator Lesser highlighted a local Granby resident in his new series 'A Little Good News.'

Audrey O'Connor, 18, launched two sustainability projects focusing on keeping the community clear of litter, one of which served as her Girl Scout Gold Award project.

The project, named "Keep Granby Beautiful," is a sustainability effort launched by O'Connor where the citizens of Granby are encouraged to adopt a street and keep it clean throughout the year.

"There are now hundreds of members in my 'Keeping Granby Beautiful' project. The amount of litter around town decreased significantly," O'Connor said.

Since its inception, Keep Granby Beautiful has become a local chapter of the Keep Massachusetts Beautiful movement and continues to advocate for sustainability throughout the community.

O'Connor also developed an annual Earth Day event where she encourages members of the community to come together and pick up litter. Much of the work to publicize the event came from her own efforts on social media, in school, and even at the grocery store to spread the word.

'A Little Good News' is a new series by Senator Lesser that aims to spotlight local heroes aiming to do good in their community and beyond.

You can watch Senator Lesser's 'A Little Good News' feature of Audrey at <https://www.facebook.com/EricLesserMA/videos/433927547683334/>.



Senator Eric Lesser congratulates Audrey O'Connor on her local sustainability efforts.

COURTESY PHOTO

Granby Town Clerk reminders

GRANBY – The following are updates from Granby Town Clerk.

Nomination papers: Any person interested in seeking elected office in Granby must take out nomination papers from the town clerk no later than Thursday, March 25 to be placed on the Monday, May 17 ballot. Please check out the Granby website at www.granby-ma.gov for all the positions that will be on the May ballot.

Dog licenses: All residents who licensed their dogs through the Town Census should have received their dog tags. If you did not receive your dog tag call the clerk's office.

For residents who have not licensed their dogs: March and April are the months to license (bylaws of the Town of Granby CH XIV). The cost is \$6 for spayed/neutered, puppies and senior dogs over the age of 10 years, all others the cost is \$15, to avoid a \$25 late charge fee dogs should be licensed by May 1.

The town offices are still closed due to the coronavirus, however if you wish to license in person appointments can be made by calling the Clerk's office.

If you choose to mail or use the drop box please include a copy of the rabies vaccination or call the clerk's office for verification, include a self-addressed envelope with two stamps, a check made payable to the Town of Granby, and mail to Town Clerk, 215 B West State Street Granby, MA.

Third and final notices on the 2021 Annual Town Census: Confirmation notices will be mailed out to all those voters who did not answer their Town Census as required by Mass. General Laws Ch 51, Sec 4. Therefore, all voters who do not answer this mailing will be designated as "inactive" on the Granby Voting List.

To avoid any voting problems please mail back this post card. If you did not receive an Annual Town Census or would like to check on your voting status call the town clerk's office for verification.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Kathy Kelly-Regan at the Granby Town Hall, 467-7178.

Granby Jr./Sr. High School honor roll

GRANBY – Granby Jr. Sr. High School would like to extend congratulations to those students who achieved Honor Roll for the 2nd quarter of the 2020-2021 school year:

Seventh grade Maximum Honors – Kaitlyn Curran, Benjamin French, Braeden Gallagher, Durant Garden, Addison Gardner, Braydon LaDuke, Mylin Laliberte-Witaszek, Ava-Elizabeth Loughman, Allison Maslak and Annalise Patterson.

Seventh grade High Honors – Brandon Chatel, Thomas DeWitt, Keith Patterson and Noah Rodriguez.

Seventh grade Honors - Emma Beaulieu, Michaela Manegio and Stephen Szlosek.

Eighth grade Maximum Honors - Junior Alcantara Garces, Mabel Carillon, Margaret Crawford, Cassandra Flaherty, Cole Fuller, Madison Lacasse, Alexis Lapite, Ava McFarland, Gavin Moreno, Jack Ouellette, Owen Randall, Autumn Sicard, Austin Smith and Stewart Szlosek.

Eighth grade High Honors - Jena

Abbott, Aiden Beach, Nathan Benson, Zachariah Dowd, Brennan Dwyer, Cheyenne Laramie and Emma Parsons.

Eighth grade Honors – Ethan Fournier, Gavin Kennedy, Cameron LeBlanc, Tristan Moe, Jonathan O'Connor, Laci Sabourin, Maxwell Seymour, Makayla Trudell and Molly Zumburski.

Ninth grade Maximum Honors – Rhea Gagnon, Nicolas Grandmont, Peyton Justin, Cindy Kusumo, Sara Lessard, Neil Lindberg, Tia Looney, Corey Rondeau, Grace Roy, David Silchuk, Michael Swanigan and Emily Tremblay.

Ninth grade High Honors - Zachary Auclair, Benjamin Berger, Ciara Charest, Brandie Dumais, Jessica Holubowich and Colin Murdock.

Ninth grade Honors – Madison Bombard, Chloe Castro, Kaitlyn Dwinell, Anthony Gregorio, Spencer Labonte, Nikolas Misiasek, Brenin Sabourin and Noel Summerlin.

Tenth grade Maximum Honors – Michael Arabik, Markus Baran, Eva

Bartosz, Joshua Chateaneuf, Patrick French, Griffin Funk, Madysen Gaj, Logan Gallagher, Rebecca Gavel, Emma Hall, Nolan Hall, Jack Hartling, Olivia Hauschild, Abigail Huebner, Brady Pete, Katherine Vallee and Robert Walsh.

Tenth grade High Honors - Elizabeth Adamites, Alexis Bogdanovich, Jacob Rodriguez and Carter White.

Tenth grade Honors – Samuel Braese, Thomas Carriere, James Curran-Jeffers, Adam Flaherty, Paul Lucchesi IV, Hao Pham and Samuel Weatherbee.

Eleventh grade Maximum - Nathan C Breault, Dana Chateaneuf, Emily Frank, Sienna Hill, Ariana Klekotka, Emma Klekotka, Kayla Klekotka, Dylan Laramie, Jenna Lashway, Karlie Moriarty, Declan Otto, Rhaegen Sheehan, Jordyn Sicard, Kristen Trembley, Gabrielle Walz and Brandon Wishart.

Eleventh grade High Honors – Gabriel Arabik, Alyson Barsalou, Joseph Boyington, William Burke, Liberty Conlin, Casey Funk, Arash Karamshahi, Cooper Looney,

Tegan Maclure, Paige Maziarz, Madison Seaha, Alaina Shippee, Briana Sosa, Tyler Sudsbury and Raymond Toth.

Eleventh grade Honors – Evan Anderson, Alexis Ariza, Connor Asselin, Liam Brown, Gianna DiRico, Paige Galusha, Nathan Grandmont, Breann Hackett, Isaiah Mejias, Kaitlyn Ouellette, Eric Puffer and Michael Toth.

Twelfth grade Maximum - Zachary Couture, Kyra Dimitropolis, Nicolette Nickless, Nicholas Parker, Eric Rakowski, Faith Roy, Nolan Sullivan and Rosalynn Vollbrecht.

Twelfth grade High Honors - Edward Glaszcz III, Gabriel Godard, Kyla Grenier, Niki Sharma, Emily Vallee and Jovany Velez.

Twelfth grade Honors - Michael Flaherty, Dylan Holubowich, Jenna Learned, Dakota LeClair, Dylan Moriarty, Destiny Roberge, Tyler Sabourin and Christina Shephard.

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Pioneers prepare for spring gridiron



PALMER – The Pathfinder Regional High School football team finally took the fields this month after seeing the season delayed from the fall. Pathfinder is set to open up the season this weekend and will play a six-week campaign.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM
Quarterback Jordan Talbot makes a long pass attempt.



Austin Lagimoniere makes the catch on a pass.



Pathfinder's defense works during practice last week.

Quarterback Jordan Talbot rears back to attempt a pass.

BASEBALL

Quabbin Valley baseball set to return

GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
gscibelli@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – Last year, COVID-19 concerns caused the cancellation of several adult recreational baseball leagues.

With increasing vaccinations and protocols in place, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, a league for players 28 and over, will return with a full season beginning at the end of April.

League President Eric Castonguay, who also serves as the athletic director at South Hadley High School, held a league-wide meeting on Sunday morning via Zoom to go over changes that will be in place to play the 2021 season and discuss the status of the six teams for the 2021 season.

The six-team league is a strictly Sunday, 10 a.m. league. All games are played at that time for 15 weeks beginning April 25 and ended in mid-August. There are Sundays off for the Memorial Day and Fourth of July holiday.

The league was going to attempt a shortened season last year when Massachusetts went through the initial stages of its re-opening plan, but a few teams



The Quabbin Valley Baseball League is set to return this season.

dropped out prior to the beginning, effectively cancelling the entire season.

This year, all six teams are back and on board, but there is a need for some new blood into the league.

The league is in need of about 25 players to fill out the rosters for this year. There are just a few weeks remaining before the league's draft.

Managers and members of the league's board discussed the COVID-19 protocols and field

arrangements for the 2021 season.

Due to the restrictions in place in Easthampton, teams will only have limited games at Daley Field at Nonotuck Park. Castonguay announced the remainder of games would be played at South Hadley High School and the Beachgrounds Park, which is also in South Hadley. Booster Field is not available for the league, Castonguay said. Three games

See **BASEBALL**, page 12 •

TOURNAMENT

Sectional tournament returns in spring season

GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – After a year without any type of high school tournaments due to the COVID-19 restrictions in place, a spring tournament is scheduled to take place in 2021.

As of now, it is believed that the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association will prepare for the traditional three-season format, and that traditional format will include a change to a statewide tournament and the elimination of the sectional tournament.

The 2020-2021 school was set to be the last year for the sectional tournaments after a vote last year to change the format of the tournament. Now the spring will feature sectional tournaments only following a recent vote by the MIAA.

There was an emphasis to try to bring back a tournament for the spring season after players missed out on an entire season last year and the MIAA did not

want that to happen two years in a row.

The entire spring season was delayed multiple times before Gov. Charlie Baker closed down schools in late April for the remainder of the school year. The closure effectively cancelled the sport season as it was deemed not safe to play.

The MIAA thus far has gone with a four-season format, including a bubble or "wedge" season to fit sports in that were not played in the first two seasons. Known as Fall 2, a variety of sports are being played right now, though football is the primary sport being played over the next several weeks. But Belchertown and Monson are also playing basketball. South Hadley and Southwick are among teams playing girls volleyball. Indoor track is also being played. However, there will be no tournaments played during the Fall 2 season, which is set to conclude at the end of

See **TOURNEY**, page 13 •

Westfield State announces return to sports action

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University will begin play for spring sports later this month, the school announced last week in conjunction with the Council of Presidents of the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.

“A spring season for our student athletes is very welcome news at Westfield State, where athletics are integral to our campus culture and student experience,” said Interim President Roy H. Saigo, PhD. “Our Westfield State Owls—the 2020 Smith Cup recipients—will be a force as safe and competitive intercollegiate play resumes for our teams.”

The Owls plan to hold intercollegiate competition in men’s and women’s track and field, women’s lacrosse, baseball, softball and men’s golf this spring.

“We are tremendously excit-

ed that our student-athletes will have the chance to return to the field of play,” said Westfield State Athletics director Dick Lenfest.

The pandemic cut seasons short exactly one year ago today, when the NCAA announced it was cancelling championships competition for 2020 due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

“It’s been a long year,” said Lenfest, who has also been tasked with managing the school’s coronavirus testing for the past nine months. “While all of our athletes have experienced disappointment as the pandemic has affected both the ability to conduct competitions and even practices, the announcement today is a win for Owls athletics. By getting back to the field of play this spring the athletes who had their seasons cut short a year ago will be the first ones to get back on the field,

providing a sense of equity as it appears that no athlete or team would miss more than one season of competition due to the pandemic.”

“It’s important for our student-athletes, coaches and staff to stay vigilant as we return to play,” said Lenfest. “The university is providing COVID testing each week before the contests, which gives us the opportunity to play intercollegiate games, but both on and off the field, while traveling, and even in the residence halls and apartments, it is important to wear your mask, wash and sanitize your hands frequently, and maintain safe social distancing protocols.”

Per the decision of the MASCAC Council of Presidents, no spectators will be permitted at spring 2021 sport contests. Westfield State athletics plans to

live video stream all of its home contests via WestfieldStateOwls.com, and the MASCAC.TV app for Roku and Apple TV streaming, and live stats for the games are also provided.

The spring sport schedules have been altered in conjunction with the presidents’ announcement. Updated schedules for the Owls’ spring sports teams will be posted shortly on WestfieldStateOwls.com. If weather or pandemic conditions force changes as the seasons progress, the online schedules are the first place to be updated accordingly.

Westfield’s traditional fall and winter sports teams will continue to have practice opportunities throughout the remainder of the spring semester, with plans to return to full completion in fall of 2021 pending public health conditions.

Hampshire association seeking umpires

REGION – The Hampshire Franklin Baseball Umpire Association (HFBUA) is planning to conduct classes for the 2021 baseball season following all recommended COVID-19 protocols including the possibility of on-line instruction. The association covers umpiring of scholastic baseball for all of Hampshire and Franklin county schools registered under MIAA and several other baseball leagues in the area.

If you are interested in umpiring baseball or obtaining further information regarding the upcoming classes please contact Roger Booth - Secretary/Treasurer of the HFBUA via email at quilthunter@comcast.net.

BASEBALL • from page 11

are typically played each Sunday. Each team plays their five opponents three times each. Every team makes the playoffs with a football-style format where the lower four seeds play in the first week of the playoffs and the winners meeting the top two seeds in the semifinals.

Castonguay explained while the gameplay itself will be largely the same, a number of “habits” will need to be changed in order for the league to safely be played.

First, like many sports, masks are required to be worn while involved in the game or on the benches. Benches will need to be spread out in order to allow for

social distancing. Mask breaks can take place up the foul lines with proper distance from all players, Castonguay said.

Last summer, umpires who did high school and adult baseball in other leagues called balls and strikes from behind the pitcher’s mound. Castonguay said umpires voted recently to have an umpire back behind the plate.

Other habits being curtailed for the start of the season are the acts of spitting, spitting pumpkin or sunflower seeds, and the removal of all garbage from playing fields.

“Fields are not providing garbage cans,” said Castonguay. “So whatever we bring in, we have to take with us.”

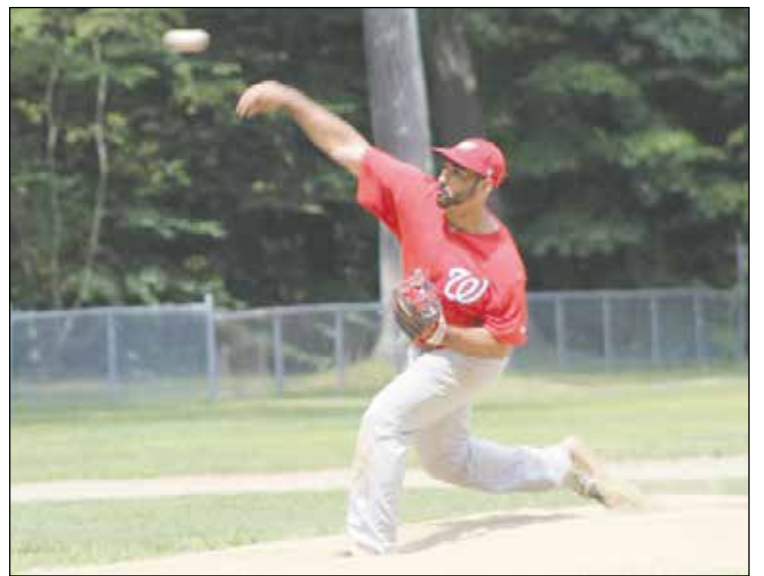
The league may issue trash

bags to teams so trash can be bagged and taken away by the players after games.

The modifications will be in place for the start of the season, but could change as the season goes on depending on the pace of vaccinations and when the governor lifts various restrictions.

The cost to play in the league this season is \$192.51 and registration can be found at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. The league draft is set for April 11 at 10 a.m. at a location to be determined.

Sign-ups for the league are ongoing and the league is in need of new players for the 2021 season.



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Details for Basketball 2020 Hall induction released

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today its newly established schedule of events surrounding the Enshrinement of the highly anticipated Class of 2020. Due to the global pandemic, the event was postponed from August 2020 to May 14-16, 2021. To allow for proper physical distancing and additional COVID-19 safety protocols, the Hall of Fame has elected to relocate Enshrinement for one year from Springfield, Mass. to an environmentally controlled venue at Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Conn with all events being held in one single site.

“There has been great interest surrounding the Class of 2020 as potentially one of our most historic classes to date,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the

Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. “We are grateful to our longtime marketing partner Mohegan Sun for providing a beautiful venue where we can properly honor these iconic figures in basketball while accounting for the health and safety of our attendees. Coinciding with the reveal of our multi-million-dollar museum renovations, we couldn’t be more excited to celebrate the Class of 2020.”

The event schedule for the Class of 2020 Enshrinement Weekend is as follows (all times eastern*):

**Event start times are subject to change*

Friday, May 14

- 2 p.m. - Class of 2020 Press Conference
- 5 p.m. - Hall of Fame Awards

Celebration and Gala

Saturday, May 15

- 5 p.m. - Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony

Sunday, May 16

- 1 p.m. - Hall of Fame Ribbon Cutting

(\$24 million dollar renovation including Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams and Museum Galleries)

The Hall of Fame Awards Celebration and Gala will recognize Hall of Fame Award winners from 2020 including John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement recipient Tim Nugent, Curt Gowdy Media Award recipients Michael Wilbon, Mike Breen, Jim Gray and TNT’s Inside the NBA, as well as Mannie Jackson Human Spirit

Award recipients Wayne Embry, George Raveling and Bill Russell.

The highly anticipated Class of 2020 includes: 18-time NBA All-Star and five-time NBA champion Kobe Bryant, 15-time NBA All-Star and three-time NBA Finals MVP Tim Duncan, 15-time NBA All-Star and nine-time NBA All-Defensive First Team selection Kevin Garnett, four-time National Coach of the Year Eddie Sutton, two-time NBA Champion coach Rudy Tomjanovich, 10-time WNBA All-Star and four-time Olympic gold medalist Tamika Catchings, three-time NCAA National Championship Coach of Baylor Kim Mulkey, five-time Division II National Coach of the Year Barbara Stevens and longtime FIBA executive Patrick Baumann.

A limited number of VIP Ticket Packages are available at this time. Any remaining single event tickets will be available for purchase Monday, March 15. For further information, a listing of COVID-19 protocols surrounding this event and purchasing options. visit www.hoophall.com/Enshrinement/Tickets.

As the health and safety of the Hall of Famers, fans and staff is of the utmost importance, the Basketball Hall of Fame will continue to work with the Mohegan Tribal Health Department to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely in the coming months and provide updates as needed.

For more information and the latest updates, visit www.hoophall.com/Enshrinement or follow @hoophall on Twitter and Instagram.

FIRE • from page 7

so watch the wind and be prepared to extinguish your brush pile. A sudden wind change is how most open burning fires get out of control,” said Ostroskey. In 2020, fire departments responded to a huge increase (49%) in unauthorized burning and had to have owners shut them down, or extinguish those that got away from owners.

Open burning is prohibited at all times in these communities: Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Chicopee, Everett, Fall River, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Malden, Medford, New Bedford, Newton, Somerville, Springfield, Waltham, Watertown, West Springfield and Worcester.

Department of Conservation and Recreation district fire warden determine the fire danger

rating daily, which assists local fire departments determine whether it is safe to issue burn permits. Weather and air quality can change rapidly, especially in the spring, and fire departments can rescind permits when that happens. Follow local procedures for using the permit on any given day.

How to safely burn brush

Burn between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. with a permit from the fire warden (usually the local fire chief).

- Burn only when air quality is acceptable for burning. Local authorities will call the MassDEP Air Quality Hotline at (800) 882-1497 or visitMassAir Online to find out if it is.
- Burn only on your own property as close as possible to the source of material to be burned, no less than 75 feet away from all dwellings and away from utility lines.

- Have fire suppression tools handy; keep a fire extinguisher or charged garden hose, and a shovel and a rake close by.
- An adult must constantly monitor the fire. Leaving burning unattended is a reason to revoke burning permits.
- Use paper and kindling to start a fire and progressively add larger pieces of wood. Parts of a leftover Christmas tree may also be used.
- Never use gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid to start a fire. The risk of injury in these cases is too high.
- Burn one small pile at a time and slowly add to it. This will help keep the fire from getting out of control.
- Burn the fire down to the coals, drown them with water, spread them out, and then drown them again. Completely extinguish the fire before leaving.

TOURNEY • from page 11

April.

The spring season, which usually begins in mid-March and ends in mid-June, will go from the beginning of May with a cut-off of July 3 to finish the season.

In order to limit travel, the MIAA did not want to have the state tournament, and have decided sectional tournaments can take place. As of now, the tournament is set to take place at home fields of higher seeds, with no neutral sites being used. However, with the vaccination effort accelerating, restrictions could lift as the next two months progress, allowing high school sports a bit more freedom.

Spring sports to be played include baseball, softball, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys tennis, girls tennis, boys track,

girls track, and boys volleyball. Wrestling is also scheduled to take place this spring.

One other caveat to the spring modifications is that teams eliminated from postseason play, can play games against other non-qualifiers through the end of the spring season.

Spring teams are used to a rushed season due to the typical unpredictable end to the winter and conditions on fields. However, with the spring sports beginning in May, field conditions should be ideal to begin games as soon as teams are ready.

Visit us at
www.turley.com

CUTCHINS • from page 1

change at all,” said Barrett. “It will get a new use as the Cutchins Learning Center... The only thing that changes, the garage the barn stays the same, but we are adding a ramp with traditional railings.”

The inside of the building will be converted into office and learning spaces. The bathroom on the first floor will be converted to be ADA compliant.

The construction of the new building will be a single-story building, which will have two accesses. There are two double bedrooms and eight single bedrooms. There will be three bathrooms, office space and occupational therapy room.

There will also be a generous living and dining area as well as a kitchen area. All the laundry will be done on site and a mechanical attic in the building.

Due to the building’s classification, the building would need to have a residential-style fire sprinkler system.

Architect Andres Bernal, who partnered with Barrett, said the project is meant to be taken into context of the neighborhood and feel residential for the children in the program.

“The scale and the decorative aspect have been designed to have that residential feel of the building,” Bernal said. “The house across the street is also one story here, we’re doing the same.”

Planning Board members stated they didn’t want to get too in-depth with their review while information regarding whether there would need to be a special permit for the project in addition to the site plan review.

Planning Board Chair Jim Nattle said there are questions regarding the traffic study, the well and others.

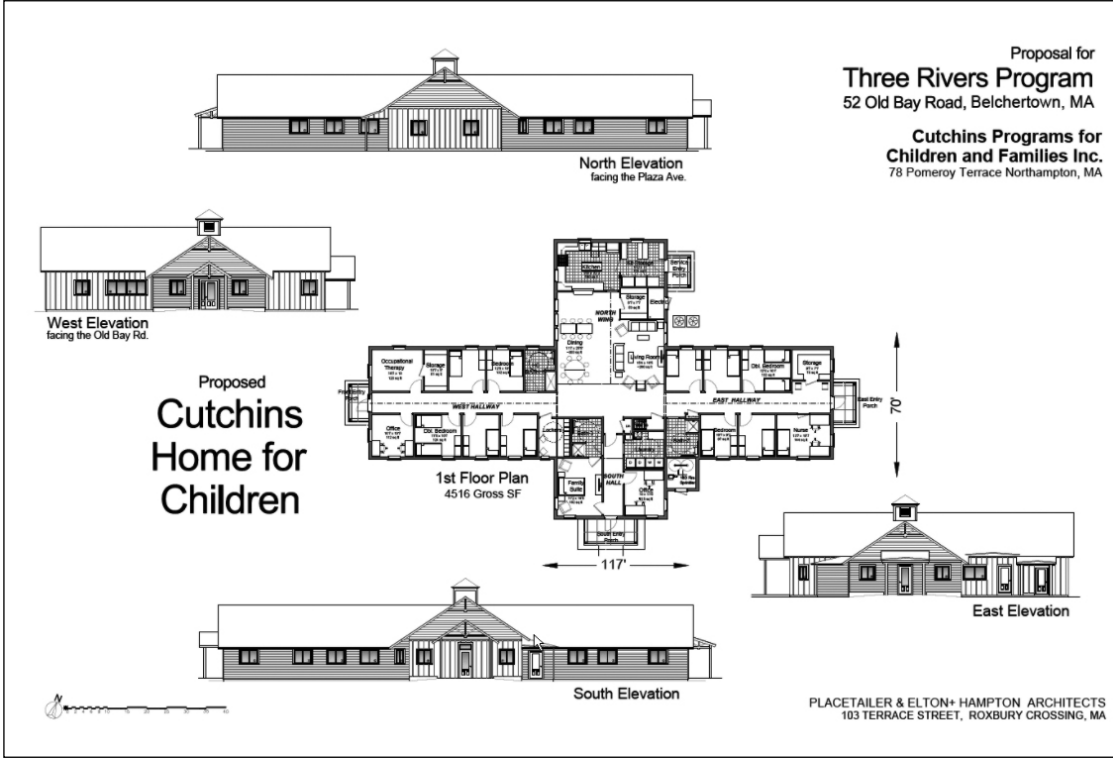
“I don’t want to keep beating on the site plan and the elevation until we have these items cleared up and done with,” he said. “If the well isn’t addressed within the next four weeks, I don’t really want to have a conversation again until that part is dealt with. So that way we know where your buildings that’s where they are going to be. We don’t want to see things moving around because, the use is changed or the design is changed.”

Cutchins specializes in treating trauma in children, sensory processing disorders, co-occurring emotional and autism spectrum disorders, according to the organization’s website.

The Three Rivers Program, which is currently based in Springfield, originated 25 years ago and is one of the newer residential programs. The specific program that has been proposed at the Belchertown location is the Three Rivers Program, which is a “Clinically Intensive Residential Treatment Program” serving no more than 12 children ages six through 12, who will reside in the new proposed home. It is the “most intensive residential treatment setting provided by Massachusetts for children under 13 years of age,” according to Cutchins.

Cutchins came before the Planning Board last month and members requested the Belchertown Selectboard send its recommendations.

Selectboard Chair Gail Gramarossa added that the Selectboard is requesting the

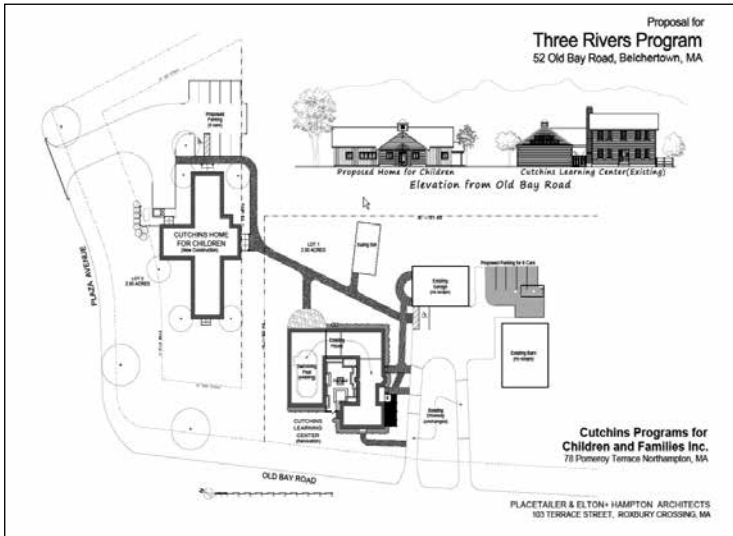


The proposed Three Rivers Program will include construction of a residential living area for the children in the program.

Planning Board “look at the issues as they are and consult with all the branches of town government that they need to and inform the community of what the outcome is – whether there is or is not a need for a special permit.”

Selectboard members expressed concerns including whether the project needed a site plan review or a special permit, lighting issues, traffic issues, the potential impact on property values and others.

This is an aerial view of the proposed Cutchins program at 52 Old Bay Road and Palaza Ave.



BUSINESS

Country Bank Welcomes New Commercial Lender

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce that Seth Arvanites has joined their Commercial Lending Division. Arvanites, who resides in Belchertown, has been in the commercial lending industry for 22 years. He came to Country Bank from Peoples United and earned a bachelor's degree in both Political Science and Geography from Syracuse University.

"The best part of this role is getting to meet, learn about, and serve the people and businesses in the community. The great people I've worked with over the years instilled in me the value of kindness, responsiveness, flexibility and teamwork," stated Arvanites. "I'm excited for the opportunity and I look forward to getting to know my clients and teammates."

"We are excited to welcome Seth to the Commercial Banking Team at Country Bank. Seth's commitment to a high level of customer service is evident, and we are excited for him to begin working as a partner with our business customers to enhance their businesses and the communities they serve. Seth's trusted approach to Commercial Banking aligns with the Bank's iSTEP Corporate Values of Integrity, Service, Teamwork, Excellence and Prosperity, and we are pleased that he has chosen Country Bank to be his



Seth Arvanites

COURTESY PHOTO

Employer of Choice," stated Miriam Siegel, First Senior Vice President, Human Resources.

Arvanites can be reached at sarvanites@countrybank.com or at 413-277-2106.

UMass Theater speculates on a more just world

AMHERST – What kind of future do you envision? The trio of visionary playwrights that have been commissioned by the UMass Theater department offer a glimpse of the futures they envision in Visionary Futures: Science Fiction Theater for Social Justice Movements series.

Starting March 24, audiences can see one, two, or all three of the works that comprise this series: Unity, by Phaedra Scott; Beyond Reform, by Jaymes Sanchez, and Gender Experience TM, by M. Sloth Levine.

The events are as follows: on March 24 and April 1, at 7:30 p.m.: Gender Experience TM by M. Sloth Levine. On March 25 and April 2, 7:30 p.m.: Unity by Phaedra Scott. On March 26 and 31, 7:30 p.m.: Beyond Reform by Jaymes Sanchez.

Creator Josh Glenn-Kayden, a third-year MFA directing candidate, encourages you to join us in envisioning the intersection of science fiction and activism. Inspired by "Octavia's Brood," a short story anthology named for writer Octavia Butler that explores the connection between radical speculative fiction and movements for social change, this project sits at the intersection of theater and activism. Three professional playwrights — Phaedra Scott (Good Hair), M. Sloth Levine (whose Interrobangers was a popular Play Lab entry last spring), and Jaymes Sanchez (The Cucuy Will Find You) — have each written a 30-minute play and have been paired with activists (TreaAndrea Russworm, Finn Lefevre, and Eli Plenk, respectively) whose work intersects with the content of the play.

These teams met regularly throughout the writing process to create plays that speculate on how societies may reimagine concepts like gender, justice, and identity in the future. (Visit our website to read bios of the artists as well as updates about our activists, cast and play titles.)

"I think there's something inherently hopeful about Visionary Futures," says Tatiana Godfrey, dramaturg for the project. "Both the activist and the playwright are asking the same question, 'What does a more just world look like?'"

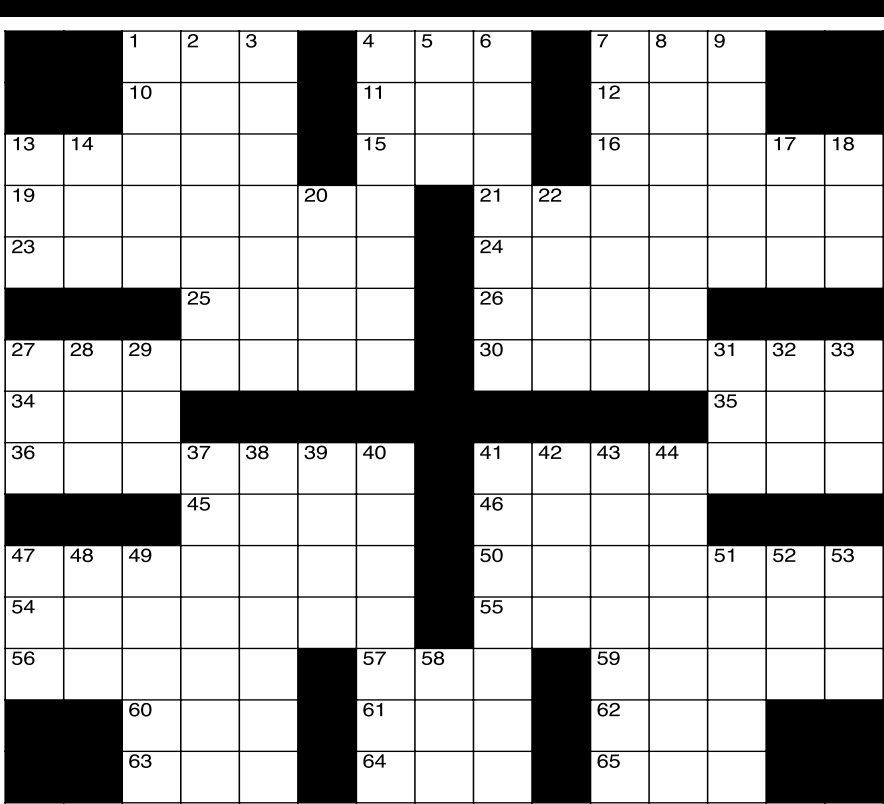
Glenn-Kayden and Godfrey are also asking these questions, building a new, inclusive process of play creation. This integrative experience allows the activists to be involved in the writing process and trajectory of the play, rather than being brought in to consult afterward.

"We're creating a new model of collaboration that includes more voices in the generative process and are excited to develop plays that are imaginative and forward thinking while still having roots in the activism work of our present moment," says Glenn-Kayden.

Each performance in March and April is a fully digital production, with virtual aspects designed by Streaming Producer Leanna Keyes.

Visionary Futures: Science Fiction Theater for Social Justice Movements will be livestreamed to YouTube. Join us as we embark on this imaginative journey into envisioning a new world. This event is free.

Visit the Fine Arts Center Box Office to claim your spot in the virtual audience now.



- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. ___ fi: popular genre
 - 4. Curved shape
 - 7. Defunct airline
 - 10. Beverage receptacle
 - 11. Corporate bigwig
 - 12. Belong to he
 - 13. They cover cuts
 - 15. Cost per mille
 - 16. Walk into
 - 19. Power-producing machine
 - 21. Part of one's character perceived by others
 - 23. Emotionally appealed to
 - 24. Protected
 - 25. Wrestling icon Okerlund
 - 26. Thailand's former name
 - 27. Muscle weaknesses
 - 30. Chooses
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Frighten
 - 2. Partner to corned beef
 - 3. Parts
 - 4. Agrees to a demand
 - 5. Elected official
 - 6. Navigator's tool
 - 7. Relating to heat
 - 8. Attractive
 - 9. Wealthy US merchant
 - 13. Engine additive
 - 14. A passage with access only at one end
 - 17. Midway between northeast and east
 - 18. Cool!
 - 20. Brazilian NBAer
 - 22. NW Pennsylvania city
 - 27. Young dog
 - 28. Mimic
 - 29. Large truck
 - 31. The NFL's Newton
- 32. One and only
 - 33. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
 - 37. Julie __, actress
 - 38. More nourishing
 - 39. Compound
 - 40. A small carrier attached to the side of a motorcycle
 - 41. Object of fear or alarm
 - 42. __ Ladd, actor
 - 43. Sacred place
 - 44. A way to express enjoyment
 - 47. Trigonometric function
 - 48. A team's best pitcher
 - 49. Intersecting points
 - 51. Roundishly shaped
 - 52. Adam's partner (Scandinavian)
 - 58. Human hormone
- 34. American film studio
 - 35. Expression of satisfaction
 - 36. Mythical winged horse
 - 41. Ballplayers
 - 45. Edible seaweed
 - 46. Chinese politician
 - 47. Tested for fertility
 - 50. Glove worn with medieval armor
 - 54. Basaltic lavas
 - 55. Small shoaling fish
 - 56. Surrendered
 - 57. Taxi
 - 59. Potato part
 - 60. Female sheep
 - 61. Trouble or difficulty
 - 62. Put into service
 - 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
 - 64. 17th letter of Greek alphabet
 - 65. Type of student

Share Some **GOOD NEWS!**

Welcome, Hayley Ryan!

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Parents (names & hometown): _____

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Maternal Grandparents (names & hometown): _____

Paternal Grandparents (names & hometown): _____

Birthdate: _____ Additional info: _____

HEALTH

Baystate Medical Center Offering Monoclonal Antibody Treatments for COVID-19 Patients

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Health is the only area health system to offer monoclonal antibody therapy for patients, which may help the body's immune system to combat the deadly COVID-19 virus.

"We first administered the experimental drug to a patient on Dec. 9. I was amazed by his recovery and absolutely thrilled over the hope that this could bring to so many other patients impacted by COVID-19," said Dr. Gladys Fernandez, co-director of the Baystate Infection Control Treatment Unit and director of Hospital-Based Education Programs at Baystate Medical Center.

"Over the past two months, an incredible team of front-line health-care providers and critical behind the scenes staff has come together to develop and implement an effective program of antibody infusions for patients across the state," she added.

The US Food and Drug Administration in November issued an emergency use authorization for Eli Lilly's monoclonal antibody and Regeneron's antibody "cocktail" to treat COVID-19 in high-risk patients with mild to moderate disease.

According to the FDA, the monoclonal antibody may reduce COVID-19-related hospitalizations and emergency room visits in some patients treated early on in their infection (within 10 days of symptom onset).

Emergency use authorization – which has since been invoked for the coronavirus vaccines – allows products such as the COVID-19 monoclonal antibodies which have been shown to offer benefits to some patients in trials, to be used before all the evidence is available for full approval.

Unlike the vaccines that stimulate one's own immune system to produce antibodies, monoclonal antibodies are given to treat early COVID-19 to help prevent progression of illness. They are also being studied to determine if they can prevent someone from contracting the coronavirus.

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the immune system's ability to fight off harmful pathogens such as viruses. The four laboratory-produced COVID-19 monoclonal antibodies – casirivimab, imdevimab, bamlanivimab, and etesevimab – are specifically directed against the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 (the official name of the novel coronavirus) designed to block the virus' attachment and entry into human cells. Bamlanivimab and the antibody cocktail casirivimab and imdevimab (referred to as a "cocktail" because of the combining of two antibodies) were first authorized in November 2020. Both required one-hour infusion and an extra hour for observation following the infusion. On February 9, 2021, the cocktail bamlanivimab and etesevimab received FDA authorization after its phase 3 clinical data were analyzed to be infused for as short as 21 minutes.

"When used to treat COVID-19 for the authorized population, the known and potential benefits of these antibodies outweigh the known and potential risks," wrote the FDA.

The "authorized population" consists of patients ages 12 and older weighing about 88 pounds with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 testing and who are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19. According to the FDA, "it should be given as soon as possi-

ble after a positive test result. This includes those who are 65 years of age or older who have certain chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease or kidney disease. The cocktail has not been authorized for use in patients who are hospitalized with COVID-19 or need oxygen therapy due to the virus.

Jim Ryan, 69, was the first patient to receive a monoclonal antibody infusion at Baystate Medical Center.

"I am very cautious, and I emphasize 'very' cautious in following all of the safety guidelines. And it is undetermined where and from whom I might have caught the virus," said the Ludlow man.

Ryan, a runner who competes in marathons, thought because he was healthy for his age that if he did contract the virus that it would be a mild case. But that wasn't to be.

"I was pretty sick. My sinuses were involved. I lost my sense of taste and smell. And I had a 104-degree fever and was fatigued beyond belief. I was in communication from home with my primary care provider, who told me that Baystate Medical Center would soon be offering monoclonal antibody therapy to patients. Because of my age and the fact that I was considered high risk, she entered me into the lottery and within a few days I 'won' and was being infused at the hospital," he said.

Because he was already pretty sick when he received the infusion, Ryan said, "It wasn't an overnight cure. But I did start feeling better each day afterwards and it helped to keep me out of the hospital."

"I would recommend the therapy to anyone given the opportunity to take it," said Ryan, a retired pharmacist, who is healthy once again and riding his bicycle 25 miles a day.

Dr. Armando Paez, chief of the Infectious Disease Division at Baystate Medical Center, who also heads the Baystate COVID Monoclonal Antibody Infusion Team, noted he was ecstatic to learn that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health had approved the hospital to provide the novel treatment to eligible COVID-19 patients in western Massachusetts.

"Not all hospitals are equipped to administer monoclonal antibody therapy, which is a complicated, time-consuming process that requires detailed attention and follow up from highly-skilled professionals. Our work would not have been as successful from an operational standpoint without the effort of an amazing group of dedicated individuals working behind the scenes on the screening, scheduling, treatment and follow up of these patients," said Dr. Paez,

who noted they have received a lot of positive feedback from patients on how they felt after receiving the therapy with few to no side effects.

Baystate's chief infectious disease physician noted COVID-19 monoclonal antibodies remain an investigational treatment, but are very promising in early infection and may also prevent infection following an exposure.

"Clinical studies are still being conducted, and so far, I like what I have been hearing. The challenge remains the complexity of how this treatment is being given by infusion, but subcutaneous (injected to skin) delivery of this treatment is currently being studied. Based on our experience, getting a COVID-19 test done in a high-risk patient suspected of having the virus and getting results promptly is as important as treating the patient as early as possible (up to 10 days from start of symptoms) to allow the cocktail's potential benefit," said Dr. Paez.

To date, the Baystate team has successfully provided monoclonal antibody treatment to over 140 patients selected for infusion based on a regulated criterion-based referral lottery system with guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The allocation guidance prioritizes patients age ≥ 65 years and those age ≥ 18 years with obesity (BMI ≥ 35) and sets aside at least 20% of infusion slots for vulnerable populations.

Dr. Paez noted that the lottery system is not used any longer for patients to be considered to receive antibody therapy.

"Fortunately, Baystate is able to meet the demand for the monoclonal antibody treatment for eligible patients, and will only employ a lottery system if the demand exceeds the infusion capacity," he said.

Since its inception at Baystate, the hospital has been able to successfully infuse up to 8 patients per day due to an efficient workflow and enhanced patient care strategies in place, noted Dr. Fernandez.

"I am very proud to be part of this team and reflect on the impact of this effort on the many patients treated every single day. The evolution of science and public health initiatives related to this pandemic has been overwhelming at times, and I consider it an honor and a blessing to be part of positive outcomes," she added.

For more information about COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatment at Baystate Health, visit: <https://www.baystatehealth.org/covid19/treatment/antibody>.

COVID-19 testing at HCC extended through June

HOLYOKE - Even though infection rates have been dropping and vaccinations are becoming more readily available, free "Stop the Spread" COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended through June 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college's main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

Wait times for tests are not nearly as long as they used to be, according to site administrators, with only a handful of vehicles lined up at the busiest times.

HCC has been serving as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site since last summer to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>.

Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations: <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>



◆ La Cucina di Hampden House

1 Allen Street, Hampden, MA

413-566-8324

www.lacucinahampden.com

CURRENT HOURS: Mon-Thurs 3-8pm;

Sat 2-9pm; Sun 2-8pm

Lounge open & pizza available 7 days

◆ Route 20 Bar & Grille

2341 Boston Road (The Wilbraham Shops)

Wilbraham, MA

413-279-2020

www.route20barandgrille.com

CURRENT HOURS: Lunch: Thurs-Sat starting at

11:30am; Dinner: Tues-Thurs 4-9pm;

Fri & Sat 4-10pm; Sunday 11:30am-7:00pm;

Sunday Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm

◆ Donovan's Irish Pub

Eastfield Mall, 1655 Boston Road, Springfield, MA

413-543-0791

www.donovanspub.com

CURRENT HOURS: Thurs-Sat 11am-9pm;

Sun 9am-7pm; Sunday breakfast 9am - noon

◆ Venice Pizza & Grill

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Wilbraham, MA

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REGION

RMV launches new safety, educational tools for first-time drivers

QUINCY – The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles is announcing the availability of new resources and tools that individuals can use as they begin the critical process of learning how to drive safely and responsibly.

A new informational online portal has been created to provide easy access to a variety of educational resources and materials that can be used to help guide first-time drivers, and parents and guardians of junior operators, through the detailed step-by-step process of securing a Massachusetts driving credential. The portal can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/guides/first-time-driver-start-here>.

The RMV is also for the first time offering online practice learner’s permit exams, which can be accessed by customers through Mass.Gov/RMV or by logging into their myRMV account. Customers now can also purchase a copy of the Massachusetts Class D (Passenger) Drivers Manual and Commercial Driver’s License Manual online using their myRMV accounts, instead of visiting a Service Center.

Ordered manuals will be mailed to customers within seven to 10 days of purchase.

“The RMV continues to look for ways in which we can support first-time drivers to ensure that the safety and educational tools they need are accessible and readily available,” said Acting Secretary and CEO of Transportation Jamey Tesler. “Learning to drive is a serious and thoughtful process, and we are pleased to provide a great deal of materials and resources which will help ensure that new drivers are safe, successful and ready for the road.”

“The RMV is pleased to offer these new valuable features and tools that can be used to help individuals learn how to drive safely and responsibly,” said Acting Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. “There are many critical steps included in this sensitive learning process, and the new portal and other resources, including the new learner’s permit practice exams, will help ensure that individuals have access to key materials to support their understanding of the rules of the road, become fully prepared to drive and keep themselves and others

safe.”

Highlights of the key features of the new online portal are as follows:

1. Steps to getting a driver’s license – Information regarding the requirements for RMV learner’s permits and road tests, and links that can be used to schedule appointments.
2. Parent/guardian information – Information regarding Driver’s Education Programs, the Parent Supervised Driving Program which provides a methodical approach to teaching requisite driving skills, and Junior Operator License (JOL) requirements including details on certain motor vehicle citation penalties which are imposed by the Junior Operator and the Safe Operator Law.
3. Safe driving tips– Links to educational YouTube videos that highlight MassDOT’s “Scan the Street for Wheels and Feet” campaign which addresses specific road-way safety topics such as being cognizant of pedestrians and bicyclists, mirrors and blind spots, and a “double threat” when pedestrians are crossing multiple lanes of

traffic that are heading in the same direction.

4. Studying for learning’s permits and road tests – Links to helpful practice exams for learner’s permit exams and the option to download the Massachusetts Driver’s Manual at no cost or purchase a hard copy of the manual which will be mailed to the customer, informational videos to become familiar with maneuvers that are evaluated during road tests, and links to specific requirements for applicants and sponsors.
5. Time to take your permit – Links to the learner’s permit application process, detailed instructions for taking the exam online, and alternative options that are available to take the exam.

For the latest RMV updates and information, follow the RMV on Twitter @MassRMV.

For additional information on RMV service offerings during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit www.mass.gov/rmv or <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rmv-covid-19-information>.

Belchertown children’s meals program menu

For the week of March 29 to March 31

Note: Tuesday through Thursday are small meal kit items

Monday

Breakfast: Cereal and 100% fruit juice.
Lunch: K-6 hot dog on a bun, 7-12 roasted pork with gravy, butternut squash and a dinner roll. Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative mini-pancakes with a cheese stick.

Tuesday (Small Meal Kits come home)

Breakfast: Apple frudel and fruit.
Lunch: Cheese pizza, Caesar salad and school baked cookie. Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative: sunbutter and jelly sandwich.

Wednesday - Curbside Meal Kit Pickup at BHS 11 a.m. from 1 p.m.

Remote learning day, no in school meals.

Note: Pre-k and Kindergarten will offer a daily in-school alternative choice: Muffin, yogurt, vegetable, fruit, and milk.

Grades 7 to 12 will offer daily in-school alternative choices: pizza station, deli bar and pre-made salads.

Belchertown kindergarten registration open

BELCHERTOWN – If you are a Belchertown resident, and have a child who will be five years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2021, you are encouraged to complete a kindergarten registration packet for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year through Friday, April 9.

The registration packet link is located on the left-hand side of the Cold Spring School website: www.belchertownps.org/css. Packets will also be available at the front entrance of Cold Spring School in the bin marked kindergarten registration packets. For drop-off convenience, place all registration materials in a sealed envelope in the drop box located to the right of the main entrance of Cold Spring School or if preferred, you may mail your packet to Cold

Spring School, 57 South Main St., Belchertown, MA 01007.

In addition to the required registration packet, you will be asked to provide: the student’s certified birth certificate with raised seal, a copy of immunization records (including lead screening), and a current physical (within one year). You will also need to provide two proofs of Belchertown residency: one in the form of a mortgage statement or rental/lease agreement and the second proof in the form of a utility bill (heating, electricity or phone) at the address listed on the registration form.

Please call the CSS main office at 413-323-0428 Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with any questions or concerns.

Calling all storytellers!

Share your story at CISA’s Field Notes

REGION – Now through March 19, Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture is inviting all community members to pitch a story for this year’s (virtual) Field Notes: An Evening of Storytelling.

Selected tellers will share true stories based on personal experience with local food or farming in western Massachusetts. Anyone with a story to tell about growing, cooking, selling, or eating local food will be considered.

Field Notes shines a light on the many ways that local food and farming has impacted lives - in ways big and small - across the region. Previous stories have included a farmer’s guide to catching would-be pumpkin thieves, a single mother struggling with food insecurity whose life was changed by a farm share, and much more.

In previous years, storytellers took the stage at the Academy of Music Theatre in Northampton to share their stories with a live audience. This year, for everyone’s health and safety, most activities will be held virtually. Storytellers will practice together through online workshops, and while they’ll still perform on stage this May, the audience will be just their peers and a film crew, masked and distanced, capturing all of the action for a video premiere in June.

All performers will have the opportunity to workshop their stories and learn performance techniques with a pro-

fessional storyteller ahead of the show, and will receive a \$125 stipend for participating. Those who need to pay for childcare to participate will receive an additional stipend.

If Spanish is a storyteller’s most comfortable language, CISA will work to provide interpretation for all activities. A verbal translation of the final performance will also be available for Spanish-speaking audience members to enjoy.

Community members can pitch their stories for Field Notes in writing on CISA’s website, buylocalfood.org, or by calling 413-247-4153 and leaving their name, contact info, and a brief outline or idea of what their story might cover.

Those interested are also welcome to contact Jacob Nelson at CISA directly at jacob@buylocalfood.org with any questions or for help generating ideas. Final selections will be made after March 19.

CISA is a nationally recognized organization of farmers, community members, and advocates working together to strengthen farms and engage the community to build the local food economy. Working in western Massachusetts and the region for over 20 years, CISA offers assistance to farmers, provides farm shares for low-income seniors, and runs the nation’s oldest agricultural “buy local” campaign - “Be a Local Hero, Buy Locally Grown®.” Find out more about our work to double the amount of local food in our diets at buylocalfood.org or call 413-665-7100. CISA is an equal opportunity provider.”

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Free virtual ‘Spring Ahead’ band concert

SPRINGFIELD – The public is invited to a free virtual band concert at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 21 on Zoom. “Music to Spring Ahead,” will herald the first weekend of Spring with a music program guaranteed to turn dreary winter doldrums to thoughts of sunny days to come. The concert will be performed by members of the Sci-Tech Band, the recognized young musicians from Springfield’s High School of Science and Technology, and Music Director Gary Bernice will lead his group through an energizing, upbeat program.

Bernice’s accomplishments are well known, as he has led the band program at Sci-Tech to award-winning performances and has amassed an impressive number of participants and followers. This concert promises to put a smile on everyone’s face.

You and your family are invited to join us for one hour of interactive fun, live music, and performance videos. This virtual event is FREE and will feature the SciTech Band Leadership Team. COVID-19 has forced us to cancel many events, but it can’t cancel community. Come celebrate student success in the arts and the hard work of all these talented students. Here is the link to attend: <https://scitechband.org/classical-high>.

The concert is sponsored by Historic Classical, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the legacy of the former Classical High School. For more information, write info@HistoricClassical.org or call 413-636-9550.

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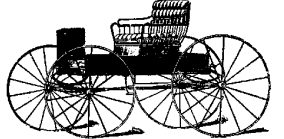
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Docket No. HD21P0103EA
Estate of:
Walter J. Henry, III
Date of Death:
December 04, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Walter J. Henry, Jr.** of Belchertown, MA.
Walter J. Henry, Jr. of

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03/18/2021

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Members of Girl Scout Troop 64592 participated in a virtual paint night. Girls got to paint a beautiful scene with a moon at night and show off their unique artistic skills with their figures in the moonlight.

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Jeffrey Michael Lucey
March 18, 1981 - June 22, 2004

Remembering
Jeffrey Michael Lucey on his
40th Birthday March 18th

Of all the special gifts in life, we remember that to have you as our son and brother was the greatest gift of all.

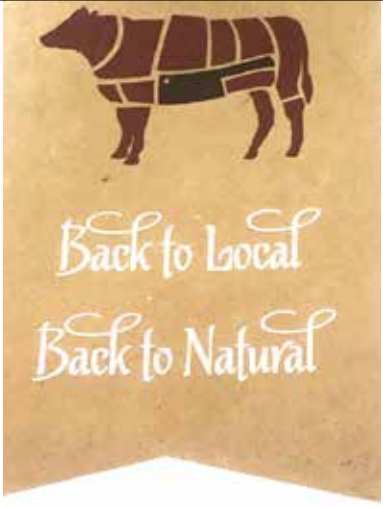
The toddler with the impish grin
The young boy who loved baseball cards
The teen with his first car
The young man with so many dreams who was sent to war
The struggling Marine who left us with all his hopes and dreams unfulfilled
Forever 23 we will remember

Love Mom, Dad, Gram, Debbie, Kelly, Don, Lauren, Mandy and Nathan



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